

Subject: Refuse & Recycling Policy

Status: For Publication

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 6th June 2007

Report of: Head of StreetScene & Liveability

Portfolio Holder: Clean & Green Rossendale

Key Decision: YES

Forward Plan X General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Rossendale introduced a wheeled bin collection service in 1997 and later in 2003/4 introduced an alternate weekly collection of refuse and recycling. During these periods there have been numerous changes in policy to reflect new collection practices.
- 1.2 This document seeks to bring all these policies up to date to reflect what currently happens within the refuse and recycling services provided by the council. Members are asked to review existing and endorse the development of new policies and procedures for refuse and recycling services within Rossendale.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priorities:
- *Delivering quality services to customers (Customers, Improvement)*
 - *Keeping our Borough clean and green (Environment)*
 - *Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)*

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- a. The council may not be able to meet its obligations to achieve recycling targets for this year and subsequent years
- b. Members should recognise that failure to deliver future recycling targets could result in the loss of income received from Lancashire County Council Waste Management Property Sharing Agreement. During 2005/06 and 2006/07 this income totalled £917,446.
- c. Failure to achieve the waste minimisation target, alone, would cost the people of Lancashire an extra £30 million every year by 2020¹.
- d. Members need to be aware of the health and safety implications of some collection methods currently employed by our operational services. Failure to introduce some changes to our collection methods could prove injurious to staff and/or residents.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 In November 1997 all fifteen local authorities in Lancashire came together to form the Lancashire Waste Partnership (LWP). The Lancashire Municipal Waste Management Strategy Steering Group was created and charged with the challenge of creating a Strategy to establish the policies that will guide the development of sustainable waste management in Lancashire for the next 20 years. The LWP has agreed a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Lancashire. Key objectives of this Strategy include:

- to effectively manage all of Lancashire's municipal waste;
- to promote and enable waste reduction and re-use;
- to maximise recycling and composting;
- to minimise landfill disposal as far as practicable;

4.2 Rossendale Council and Lancashire County Council (LCC) have agreed to work in partnership with each other to achieve the targets. These targets are referred to in Table A below and are defined in the terms set out in the Waste Management Property Based Cost Sharing Agreement (hereafter called the Cost Sharing Agreement) which the council signed up to in 2005/06.

Table A

Financial Year	Mixed Recyclables (%)	Green Waste (%)	Total (%)
2004/05*	16.5%	3.0%	19.5%
2005/06*	17.7%	5.0%	22.7%
2006/07*	21.5%	6.0%	27.5%
2007/08**	24.5%	6.2%	30.7%
2008/09	26.5%	6.5%	33.0%
2009/10	27.5%	7.5%	35.0%
2010/11	28.0%	7.5%	35.5%
2011/12	35.0%	7.5%	42.5%
2012/13	40.0%	7.5%	47.5%
2013/14	45.0%	7.5%	52.5%
2014/15	50.0%	8.0%	58.0%

¹ A Greener Strategy for a Greener Future <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/waste/pdf/doc.pdf>

- 4.3 The council has achieved its targets in the last three years and has also successfully implemented collections for six recycling materials and green waste. Our achievements have seen us raise our total recycling rate by over 13% since 2003/04 and to buck the national trend by reducing our waste by over 19 kilograms per household during the same period. See Table B below.

Table B

BVPI	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	
Total Recycling	15.33%	21.88%	23.75%	28.44%	Increase 13.11%
Kilograms per household	393.34	377.06	377	374.07	Decrease 19.27

- 4.4 In order to promote recycling in Rossendale we have undertaken numerous campaigns in schools to educate people on the need to recycle. Similarly we have introduced extra receptacles for paper and card collection and brown bins/bio bags for garden waste.
- 4.5 We have procured a fit for purpose environmentally friendly refuse fleet, leading to increased efficiency and less down time for vehicles, whilst generating significant savings on vehicle repair, maintenance and service costs. This has led to month on month reductions in missed bins. All council vehicles are satellite tracked providing efficiencies, better customer services, a quicker response to complaints and lower insurance premiums.
- 4.6 Our refuse fleet and street cleansing vehicles have advertising on them to promote recycling and inform residents of what materials can be recycled.. These new vehicles are slightly larger than the old fleet enabling us to maximize our collection rounds by carrying larger loads and cutting down on the number of trips to landfill.
- 4.7 Increasing participation in recycling is one way of diverting waste away from landfill. Residents have an important role in ensuring that they contribute to the reduction of waste sent to landfill and the easiest way of doing this is taking part in recycling. If Rossendale Council as a partner in the LWP fails to meet its waste recycling targets LCC will incur significant fines that it will be unable to absorb. These additional costs may well have to be passed on to residents in the form of council tax increases. This situation can be avoided if recycling participation levels increase.
- 4.8 We have issued over 120,000 leaflets during the past 2 years informing residents about our recycling services. The NEAT teams are producing a campaign which will roll out over the coming months to publicise and raise awareness about issues such as side waste, contaminated bins and collection points, together with the production of service standards which will also be published on our website.

- 4.9 We have recently undertaken an audit to determine how much side waste is collected; the audit has shown that in excess of 15 tonnes of side waste is collected each week. It is estimated that only about 60% of residents partake in recycling and on average we have over 50 contaminated recycling bins each week. We have calculated that if side waste was recycled it would amount to an increase of 5% in our recycling rates. If we increased our participation rates for recycling, we have calculated that our recycling rates could increase by a further 10-15% over the next three years.
- 4.10 The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) wrote to all local authorities in 2005 regarding the issue of extra bags of waste left out with wheeled bins on collection days. The letter refers to the use of enforcement to ensure that side waste is not left out for collection.

Procedures and Policies

- 4.13.1 Attached to this report are the following policies and procedures which have been outlined briefly below:
- a) Number of Bins
Domestic properties of five or less people are entitled to one wheeled bin for residual waste and a combination of blue, brown, grey bins and/or a box or sack.
 - b) Cost of Bins
Residents must pay for all residual bins, recycling bins or boxes/bags are free of charge.
 - c) Frequency of Collection
Properties will receive a collection of recyclables one week and a residual waste collection on the alternate week.
 - d) Repair or Replacement of damaged bins
Any wheeled bin container or recycling box that is damaged or destroyed by the council during the collection process will be repaired or replaced by the Borough Council free of charge.
 - e) Collection time
All receptacles must be available for collection at the designated point from 7am on the day of collection. All lids must be completely closed
 - f) Collection points
The Council will place properties onto a collection point in consultation with Council members and effected residents.
 - g) Assisted Collections
Residents who consider they are unable to move a wheeled bin container, sack or recycling box to the required point of collection, may ask to be placed on an 'assisted collection' scheme.
 - h) Contaminated Bins
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As of 1st October, 2007 the council will not accept cross contaminated bins e.g. domestic waste in recyclable bins. Each receptacle has a designated usage e.g. blue bin for glass cans and plastics.

i) Side Waste

As of 1st October, 2007 excess domestic waste (side waste) left for collection (in any type of receptacle i.e. bin bags / boxes etc) not wholly contained within the green bin will not be collected.

j) Non Presented Bins

Definition: A bin which is not available for collection on right day and/or is not available for collection when the crew is on their street. This is an unjustified complaint.

k) Missed Bins

The council aims to return for all justified missed bin collections within 24 hours. There may be exceptions to this from time to time.

l) Impaired Access

If for any reason vehicles have limited access e.g. parked cars, road works, deliveries, road / weather conditions or remote locations the council will re-visit the property on the same day.

4.13 The policies and procedures are proposed to ensure consistency of good practice within the borough and importantly will address the issues raised above and are suggested as a framework for discussion by a working party with a proposed policy implementation date of 1st October 2007.

4.14 Members are invited to visit some of the locations where difficulties arise, on collection days in order to demonstrate some of the situations encountered by our refuse crews.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

5.1 A number of financial issues and their consequences are noted in the report. Increased budget resources required to support recycling and refuse disposal have been identified over previous years and continue into the medium term to meet the challenge of increased recycling targets. Further initiatives may need to be developed to further embed efficient and effective recycling and their associated costs.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

7.1 No HR comments

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Although some of these policies have been agreed by several committees in the past, they have been interpreted in various ways since the introduction of wheeled bins in 1997 and the alternate weekly collections in 2003/04.
- 8.2 This report and the attached documents seek to standardise how we deliver our refuse and recycling services to ensure we provide an equitable service across Rossendale.
- 8.3 Similarly, we need to ensure that we can meet our future statutory targets for recycling and waste minimisation in accordance with our agreements with Lancashire County Council and the Government Waste Strategy.
- 8.4 The council must ensure that it complies with Health and Safety legislation and has a duty to provide a safe working environment for its staff and a safe system of collection for its residents.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 That Cabinet to approve the policies and principle and delegates responsibility for changes to the Head of StreetScene & Liveability, in consultation with the portfolio holder for StreetScene & Liveability.
- 9.2 That a working group of members and officers is established to develop a communications plan for implementation and an evaluation mechanism for future reporting. A draft terms of reference for this group is attached.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 This report has been discussed at the Equalities Consultation Group, the group commented that they were in agreement with the policies and procedures and were satisfied with the procedures for assisted collections.

Contact Officer	
Name	Carole Todd
Position	Head of StreetScene & Liveability
Service / Team	StreetScene & Liveability
Telephone	01706 252551
Email address	caroletodd@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Lancashire County Council A Greener Strategy for a Greener Future	http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/waste/pdf/doc.pdf
Appendix One - Policies	Attached
Appendix Two – Procedures (A)	Attached
Appendix Three – Procedures (B)	Attached
Appendix Four – Letter from Defra	Attached

Appendix Five – Terms of Reference	Attached
Property Based Cost Sharing Agreement	Available on request via Carole Todd at Stubblee Council Offices