

<b>Subject:</b>	Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleansing Review	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2012
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Customers and Communities	<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Operational Services and Development Control
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Community Impact Assessment:</b>	Required: Yes	Attached:	Yes
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b>	Required: No	Attached:	No
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1.	<b>RECOMMENDATION(S)</b>
1.1	That members note the progress made to date on work to review the refuse, recycling and street cleansing services.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The Purpose of the report is to update Members in relation to consultation around proposals to review our refuse, recycling and street cleansing services, as approved by Cabinet in June 2012.

## 3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **A Clean and Green Rossendale** – creating a better environment for all, this priority focuses on clean streets and well managed open spaces.
  - **Responsive and value for money local services** – responding to and meeting the different needs of customers and improving the cost effectiveness of services.

## 4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Undertaking appropriate consultation on potential service changes is essential and will mitigate the risk of challenge. Importantly, this also reinforces a culture of engagement and empowerment.
- 4.2 Not reviewing the way that we currently run our services would leave The Council at risk of not being able to meet the challenges of the Medium Term Financial Strategy to make the £1.3m cuts required by 2014/15.

## 5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 Cabinet considered a paper on the Medium Term Financial Strategy in June 2012 and gave approval for officers to begin consultation on changes to refuse and street cleansing services, with a view to improving the efficiency of the services.
- 5.2 The review relates to the current refuse and recycling collection rounds, the collection of clinical waste and garden waste, and our street cleansing service, which includes the emptying of street litter bins, litter picking, the removal of fly tipping, street sweeping and

cleansing, and the role of the Town Centre Caretakers.

- 5.3 The intention behind the review is to utilise our staff and other resources more efficiently to enable us to make financial savings.
- 5.4 Our understanding of the impact of these service changes on customers is being captured in a series of Community Impact Assessments which are being informed by the on-going consultation responses. Broadly, the impact for the different elements of the review are as follows:
- 5.4.1 Move of refuse and recycling collections to area-based routes – customers may have their refuse and recycling collected on a different day; however they will still receive the regular alternate weekly collection service. Staff will be deployed in more flexible roles.
- 5.4.2 Review of street cleansing services to complement area-based working - street sweeping and street cleansing will be to the same standard as before the review. Carrying out this review alongside the review of refuse and recycling collections is necessary to ensure that there is no duplication and there are no practical difficulties, e.g. to ensure that pavement sweepers are not in the same area as refuse collections on the same day and having to avoid wheelie bins on the pavements.
- 5.4.3 Review of garden waste collections – given that there is a drop off in the amount of garden waste collected between the summer months (approximately 8.5kg per household, per collection from April to September) and the winter months (approximately 5kg per household per collection in October and March, and only 1kg per household per collection from November to January), and many people do not put their garden waste bins out at all over winter, we are proposing that garden waste is collected only on certain days in the winter months, and only on request. Residents would be made aware of the collection days and would need to contact us to let us know if they wished us to collect from their property on that day.
- 5.4.4 Review of clinical waste collections – we would like to work with our customers to divert as much waste as possible into the regular green wheelie bin to avoid the need, as far as possible, for customers to have to present yellow clinical waste sacks for collection. This will mean that more waste can be sensitively disposed of alongside regular waste, and The Council may be able to reduce the cost of the clinical waste collection service.
- 5.5 Since Cabinet approved the consultation around this review, we have carried out the following consultation with residents:
- Development of Citizens' Panel Questionnaire, which has been sent to all residents on the panel (770 residents who are representative of the population of Rossendale), and circulated more widely to various community and interest groups. This asks a range of questions including questions about potential change in collection days and potential changes to garden waste collections in winter.
  - Letters sent to all customers in receipt of our clinical waste service to enable us to understand what waste can be diverted into the mainstream collection.
  - Results of this consultation are expected at the end of September 2012 and will be reported to Cabinet in November 2012.

**6. COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

**6.1 SECTION 151 OFFICER**

As noted above, the review is part of the Councils agreed response to its Medium Term Financial Strategy challenge and the requirement to save in excess of £1m per annum from its annual net expenditure.

**7. MONITORING OFFICER**

7.1 All comments are contained in the body of the report.

**8. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)**

8.1 Some initial briefings and consultation has taken place with employees and the Trade Unions and employees and Trade Unions will be involved in the development of any proposals.

8.2 The Human Resource implications of any decision are currently being understood and in the event of any arising the Council's workforce agreements will apply.

**9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

9.1 In addition to consultation with customers, Cabinet and Management Team have also been consulted.

9.2 Staff consultation is also on-going.

**10. CONCLUSION**

10.1 Customer and staff consultation is on-going in relation to proposed changes to refuse, recycling and street cleansing services.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Report to Cabinet on MTFS – June 2012	Rosendale Borough Council website