

Subject:	Refuse and Recycling Collection Route Review (Area Based Working)	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	9 th July 2014
Report of:	Head of Operations	Portfolio Holder:	Operational Services and Development Control
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: Yes	Attached:	Yes
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required: No	Attached:	No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	That the Cabinet considers the update on service changes as set out in the report and summarised in 5.3

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to update and inform members of the proposed changes to Refuse, Recycling services, specifically the introduction of area based working following the recommendations as initially outlined in the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Street Cleansing in 2012, and subsequent approval at Corporate Scrutiny Committee 24 June 2013, and Cabinet 18 September 2013.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **Regenerating Rossendale:** This priority focuses on regeneration in its broadest sense, so it means supporting communities that get on well together, attracting sustainable investment, promoting Rossendale, as well as working as an enabler to promote the physical regeneration of Rossendale.
 - **Responsive Value for Money Services:** This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.
 - **Clean Green Rossendale:** This priority focuses on clean streets and town centres and well managed open spaces, whilst recognising that the Council has to work with communities and as a partner to deliver this ambition.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- 4.2 Undertaking appropriate engagement and consultation on potential service changes is essential to help us understand the impact of potential changes and inform decision making. Importantly this also reinforces a culture of engagement and empowerment, and will mitigate the risk of challenge.
- 4.3 Not fully implementing the recommendations could impact on service delivery and longer term financial costs as a result of increased maintenance costs of an ageing fleet.
- 4.4 Due to the nature of the change to area based working, there will be a risk of increased

dissatisfaction during the transition period. Clear and consistent communication plans are in place to support this as far as is reasonably possible, as well as identifying those properties that may have a long transition period until they fall into the new zoned collection. Additional collections will be provided for these identified properties during transition.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 In September 2012, as part of the Scrutiny work programme, members of Overview and Scrutiny reported on a task and finish group which had been established to look at potential savings to the street cleansing service, as part of the wider RBC savings review, in the context of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the need to make £1.5m budget cuts.
- 5.2 In June 2013, Corporate Scrutiny Committee considered the proposed actions and recommendations which included the implementation of area based refuse collection routes. [See item D3, Corporate Scrutiny Committee 24 June 2013](#)
- 5.3 In September 2013, Cabinet considered recommendations which included;
 - 5.14 *It is further proposed that new area based refuse collection routes are implemented, to enable staff to deliver an average of 20 hours of litter picking/deep clean time in the area they are in on that day (one day per fortnight).*[See item C1, Cabinet 18 September 2013](#)
- 5.4 The preparation for the new area based refuse collection routes are at an advanced planning stage, with the optimum implementation date identified as late September 2014.
- 5.5 A Supporting Communications Plan is in place to support successful implementation of area based working; which will provide clear and consistent messages internally to staff and members, and externally to residents, businesses, and the press.
- 5.6 Indicative one-off costs relating to communication to residents and contingency arrangements during initial roll out of new collection routes are shown below:-

Item	Cost £'000
Printing and distribution of Calendars	26.1
2 Additional Crews for 2 weeks	5.3
Overtime for two weeks	4.2
Total	35.6

The costs identified for additional crews and overtime may not be fully expended but have been identified as potential cost to provide additional support if required.

Of the potential costs highlighted above, £14k will be met from previously earmarked provisions; with the balance met from the 2014/15 Operations budgets, currently projected to under spend by £108k. Any additional publicity costs will be funded from People & Policy budgets.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 6.1 Financial matters are noted above. In addition, as indicated in the Sept 2013 Cabinet report, Area Based Working will be the mechanism by which £70k -£80k per annum of planned 2014/15 budget savings are delivered.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 No further comment.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

8.1 Not to pursue the change to area based working for its refuse and recycling collection services would leave the Council at risk of not being able to meet the challenges of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

8.2 No adverse impacts have been identified for any protected equality group as a result of implementing the proposed area base working. The Council's Assisted Bin Collects Policy will remain in place for those that require it.

8.3 Various consultation relating to changes within operations services has been undertaken during the two years. This includes:-

- Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Street Cleansing – June to September 2012
- Involvement of Management Team, supervisors, union and wider staff group – September 2012 to present
- Engaged SKM Consultants - May 2013
- Cabinet – 12 June 2013
- Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 24 June 2013
- Whitworth Town Council – 11 July, 25 July 2013, 11 September 2013
- RBC Member Session – 29 July 2013
- Citizens Panel – August 2013

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 Following consultation on the recommendations of the street cleansing task and finish group, it is proposed that the refuse, recycling area based collection routes are implemented as set out in section 5.3.

No background papers