

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 FEBRUARY 2018

ADOPTION OF A REVISED WASTE AND RECYCLING POLICY

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT AND COMMERCIAL SERVICE

(Contact: Claire Locke, Tel: (01993) 861344)

(The Committee's decisions will be recommendations to the Cabinet)

1. PURPOSE

To highlight to Members the need to adopt an updated Recycling Policy and to levy charges for certain waste services.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet be recommended to:-

- (a) Adopt the Waste and Recycling Policy appended to this report.
- (b) Agree that Section 106 contributions will be required from the developers in respect of all residential developments for the delivery and provision of containers.
- (c) Agree that should a resident request that their contaminated recycling bin be emptied as a rubbish bin a charge will be levied, with some discretion to offer a free collection, defined in the Policy, regarding the first incidence of contamination.
- (d) Agree that in order to encourage recycling The Council will no longer sell large 360 litre rubbish bins to residents.
- (e) Agree that the full cost for the collection and disposal of rubbish and recycling from Schedule 1 properties specified in The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2013 be recharged with charges set annually by Council effective from 1 April 2018.
- (f) Recommend to the Council that the charges for the services detailed above be agreed for 2018/19.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Following residents' feedback, the waste service was redesigned and in October, 2017, properties moved from a weekly kerbside sort collection in boxes to a fortnightly commingled wheeled bin collection. In light of the change in recycling collection service the Waste and Recycling Policy has been reviewed and amended as set out at Appendix A.
- 3.2. New Developments will require the provision of rubbish and recycling containers. According to the Census data, between 2001 and 2011, on average, 480 dwellings have been constructed per annum. Under Section 106 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act, the Council can seek financial contributions for the provision of containers.

- 3.3. The Council will incur ongoing revenue costs in providing a waste and recycling collection service for new properties, so it is recommended that container costs are recouped to minimise financial on the Council. Charges for container supply and delivery will be set annually by the Council.
- 3.4. There may be occasions in which a resident unintentionally places an unwanted item(s) in the recycling bin that is not a material that the Council recycles. Should this occur a notice will be placed on the relevant container notifying residents and asking the resident to remove the unwanted material and dispose of it in a responsible manner. Wrong items can contaminate other recyclable material and lead to the whole load being rejected by the re-processor.
- 3.5. There may be occasions where a resident prefers to have the container emptied rather than remove the unwanted item(s) themselves. On these occasions Ubico can send out a separate vehicle and Collection Crew to empty the container(s) but there will be a cost to providing this service. If this service is provided free it will not deter residents from contaminating bins. It is therefore recommended the cost of providing this service is recharged to the resident. The exception will be a resident who is on an assisted collection and on means tested benefits who has neither the physical ability to empty their own bin or the financial means to pay for their bin to be collected. On proof that they are in receipt of a means tested benefit, one free collection will be provided. Any subsequent collections of contaminated bins would be charged for, however the Waste team would work with this resident to ensure they understand and can positively participate in the recycling collection service. This charge will be set annually by the Council.
- 3.6. In January 2007 Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) agreed a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. This was then reviewed and updated in April 2013, with all partners adopting. This sets out our plans for dealing with Oxfordshire's municipal waste through to 2030. An aim of the strategy is to achieve a combined recycling and composting rate of at least 65% of household waste by 2020. In 2015/16 West Oxfordshire's combined recycling and composting was 60.8%. The Waste Resources Action Programme published a study in July 2015 which indicated higher recycling rates are linked to lower rubbish bin capacity. At present a standard 180 litre rubbish bin is issued to most households (see policy for alternative provision) but households have been able to purchase a larger 360 litre bin. It is proposed that this option is removed to encourage waste reduction and promote recycling. The Council will still offer a larger 240 litre rubbish bin in specific circumstances; the Council will also encourage residents to increase recycling.
- 3.7. Schedule 1 of The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2013 lists types of household waste and recycling for which the Council can make a charge for collection and disposal. This covers waste from various non-domestic institutions, including local authorities, schools, hospitals, private garages, charities, royal palaces, village/town halls, campsites and prisons and households on moored vessels and in caravans/residential homes on land used in connection with a domestic property. Currently the charges levied are for rubbish only and not recycling and are based on the costings of the Kier MG contract which does not reflect the true cost of service provision. Under the Ubico Ltd contract these costings will increase due to the volatile nature of the dry mixed recycling market no longer offsetting the cost of collections. In order to be reflective of actual costs. It is proposed that the charges are increased to

reflect the cost of the delivering the rubbish and recycling service from April 2018.
Charges to be set by Council annually.

4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

- 4.1. No waste and recycling policy is adopted but this would cause confusion and could lead to a lack of consistency.
- 4.2. No charges be levied and the Council absorbs the cost.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Table 1 below demonstrates an overview of the cost impact of the proposed changes in charges to developers through Section 106 agreement.

	Cost incurred
Cost incurred for the purchase of bins and boxes for a household	£154
Cost of delivery per household	£44
Total per household	£198
Total cost per annum based on 480 properties	£95,040

- 5.2. Table 2 below provides the proposed charges to residents for emptying a contaminated bin based on assumptions for average time taken.

	Cost incurred
Vehicle & fuel cost	£59
Staffing cost	£33.50
Total cost per contaminated bin	£92.50

- 5.3. Table 3 below sets out the proposed charges, per collection, for waste collections from Schedule 1 premises.

Bin Size	Food waste	Recycling	Rubbish
23 litre	£3.33		
140 litre	£4.13		
240 litre	£4.85	£4.04	£6.18
360 litre	£5.69	£6.26	£9.54
660 litre	£7.79	£8.02	£11.53
1100 litre		£11.39	£16.63
Sack or sticker		£2.04	£2.47

6. RISKS

- 6.1. Reputational damage from introducing a charge to a service which was previously free.
- 6.2. Financial impact on the Council of failing to introduce charges for services and absorbing these costs.
- 6.3. Failure to tackle contamination in recycling bins may result in whole vehicle loads being rejected and sent for disposal as refuse, or in high disposal charges due to the levels of contamination which will have a significant financial impact on the Council and impact negatively on recycling performance.

7. REASONS

Protect and enhance the environment of West Oxfordshire and maintain the district as a clean, beautiful place with low levels of crime and nuisance; and be recognised as a leading council that provides efficient, value for money services.

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Background Papers:
None