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Waste Collection Replacement Container Policy

Purpose

- 1.1 The Council provides a kerbside waste collection service to all residents of Derby City. Collection containers vary in colour to enable residents to identify which container is used for each waste stream.
- 1.2 There is a lack of consistency across the containers, with only any additional garden waste recycling containers being charged at £40. This presents a potential barrier to recycling.
- 1.3 The Council is developing its waste strategy in line with the government’s anticipated Waste and Resources Strategy for England with the aim of promoting recycling as the preferred method of waste disposal.
- 1.4 The decision to implement the refreshed waste container policy was made by Cabinet at the Cabinet meeting on 16th December 2020 as part of the savings detailed in the MTFP 2021-22 – 2023-24 report. The purpose of this report is to recommend and seek a decision on the fees and charges for waste containers.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To approve the refreshed Waste Collection Container Policy which seeks to encourage recycling by removing the £40 charge for additional garden waste recycling containers (brown bins) and sets out new charges as follows:

Container type	Waste type	charge
Black	Residual waste	£25.00
Blue	Dry recyclable waste	Foc
Brown	Compostable waste	Foc

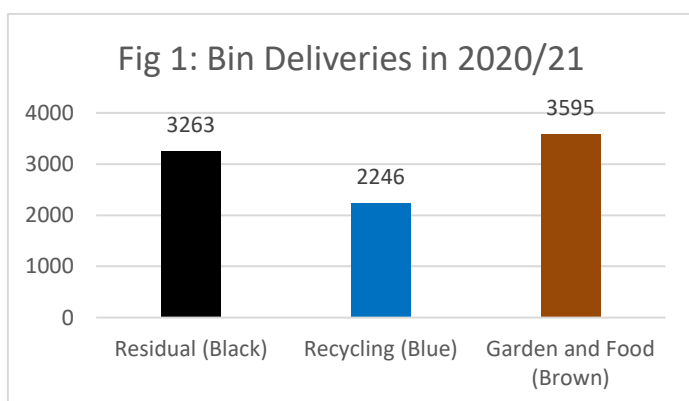
Reason(s)

- 3.1 The Council promotes and encourages recycling, yet the current £40 charge for additional brown bins could provide a barrier to residents wanting to compost more of their waste.

Supporting information

- 4.1 It is proposed that all new domestic properties will continue to receive an initial set of containers at no charge. Residents are encouraged to mark the bins issued to their household with their address to reduce the chance of loss.
- 4.2 The proposed container charging structure will see the overall charge for bin charges reduced from £40 to £25 and the charge applying to non-recycling containers only. Applying a charge to non-recycling containers would likely influence the number of containers being requested.
- 4.3 Charging policies can be used as an effective tool to remove barriers to recycling; but can also increase service efficiency and drive down service delivery costs. Data from Rochdale Borough Council, who have recently introduced a charge for non-recycling containers in November 2020, showed that that in the first 3 months demand reduced by 56% with an overall 50% reduction for the total year.

The following graph (fig 1) demonstrates Derby City Council's 2020/21 bin delivery performance by type:



- 4.4 Applying this model to Derby City the Council will support the promotion of recycling in the city and it is anticipated that there will be an increase in take up of additional brown bins for compostable waste, removing more compostable items from the black bin and reduce black bin requests by around 1.6k bins.
- 4.5 Applying the projected 50% reduction in black bin demands will enable the Council to reduce the number of containers purchased or held in stock which will realise efficiency in the service saving £24.4k on the cost of container. Applying the £25 charge to the projected number of requested black bins would generate an indicative income of £40.8k. Offsetting the lost income through removing the brown bin container charge provides an overall net benefit of £54.5k as demonstrated in the table below:

Income from proposal	£ 40,787.50
Saving on unneeded bins	£ 24,372.00
Less income lost from current charges	£ 10,680.00
Net benefit	£ 54,479.50

- 4.6 The proposed £25 charge for a replacement residual waste bin covers bins that have been lost, stolen or those judged to have been damaged by the residents. In addition, it will also apply to the provision of additional bins in cases where customers meet the criteria for extra capacity. If a bin is damaged as part of the emptying process or goes in the back of the refuse collection vehicle, these bins will continue to be provided free of charge.
- 4.7 The charges offset the costs of administration and delivery of the container. The container will remain the property of Derby City Council and linked to the property it is delivered to.
- 4.8 This policy does not apply to locations where communal containers are in place for example flats or houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs). A separate policy remains in place for these containers.
- 4.9 A stock of well-conditioned used containers will be retained and in instances where a vulnerable resident is unable to pay for a new replacement bin, a used container will be offered.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Research facilitated by APSE (Association for Public Sector Excellence) shows that a number of local authorities currently charge for replacement bins with a cost between £19.38 and £41.27 for residual waste bins.
- 5.2 This research also showed that introducing a charge for recycling containers has a likely deterrent effect on recycling participation with a council, Exeter, stating that they introduced a charge for replacement recycling bins (albeit less than a non-recycling bin) and they believe this was a mistake due to this adverse effect

Other options

- 6.1 To charge £25 for all containers would generate a potential £185k but would present a barrier to residents looking to recycling. NOT RECOMMENDED
- 6.2 To introduce a reduced charge of £16 for recycling containers would make replacement recycling containers more affordable and generate a potential £109k, but still present a barrier to recycling. NOT RECOMMENDED

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 The income generated from residual waste containers would offset the increase in costs for free replacement recycling containers as detailed in paragraph 4.5. The net benefit will contribute towards 2021/22 MTFP savings as anticipated with the original plan of charging for replacement brown bins.

Legal implications

- 8.1 The Council collects waste in line with the Waste Framework Directive and under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA). The EPA places a statutory duty to provide waste collection and requires the council to determine the most appropriate container for collections.
- 8.2 The Waste Framework Directive sets out the Waste Hierarchy which provides guidance on preferred waste management methods. After reduce, and reuse, recycling is the preferred approach to waste management and this policy seeks to encourage recycling by providing replacement and additional recycling containers to residents who wish to recycle more. The waste hierarchy is shown in fig 2 below:

Fig 2: The Waste Hierarchy



Climate implications

- 9.1 The Council is committed to supporting the climate agenda within waste management services. This report demonstrates the commitment to recycling as a preferred method of waste disposal.
- 9.2 The charge for black containers will stop customers ordering them unnecessarily or placing multiple orders. Frequently we will deliver replacements, then get asked to remove them because there are now too many bins on site, for example a missing bin has reappeared. Reducing requests to those that are genuine, will help bin stock go further and will reduce unnecessary journeys and fuel, thereby saving on mileage and greenhouse gas emissions.

Other significant implications

- 10.1 None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Florence Harper	10/08/2021
Finance	Amanda Fletcher	11/08/2021
Service Director(s)	Sam Dennis, Director of Public Protection and Streetpride	09/08/2021
Report sponsor	As above	
Other(s)	Christos Zannettou, Commercial Manager Carly Walker, Technical Manager (Waste)	10/08/2021

Background papers:
List of appendices: