

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting21st April 2016

1. Title of Item/Report

Scrutiny Review of Kerbside Waste Collection

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on a Scrutiny Review of Kerbside Waste.

The national target for recycling for England was 45 per cent. For 2014-2015 Stockton Council had a recycling rate of 26.6%.

On average, each household in Stockton generated 13.2kg/hh/wk of waste (recycling and residual waste). Of this, an average of 10.92kg/hh/wk is put in the wheeled bin and 2.28kg was recycled.

Of all waste disposed of in the Wheeled Bin, around 30% contains recyclable material that could be placed in the kerbside recycling containers (totalling 3.37kg/hh/wk).

Should residents put all recyclable materials into the recycling container as opposed to their wheeled bin, Stockton Council's maximum waste diversion (recycling) rate would be 44.9% and match the national target for England.

The Kerbside Waste Collection Service was a key Council service which affected all residents of the Borough. Waste and recycling services were delivered by the Care For Your Area team and featured the collection of materials in the following:

Residual Waste was serviced by a weekly waste collection using 240ltr wheeled bins or black waste sacks. A larger container, if qualified, of a 360ltr bin could be requested for residents with 6 or more permanent occupants.

Recycling waste was collected fortnightly (Tuesday – Friday) all year round in a 'one pass' vehicle with 3 compartments for dry recycling material:

- a. Blue Box (55 litres) – glass and batteries (was previously used for

tins prior to 2013)

- b. Blue Bag (47 litres) – paper, junk mail, magazines etc
- c. White Bag (47 litres & 75 litres) – plastic, cardboard and tins

Green Waste was collected as a 'seasonal service' over 26 weeks from Easter onwards using a reusable hessian type sack (chargeable at £2 per bag) as well as providing an option for a roll of 26 disposable clear sacks (chargeable at £3 per roll).

Local authorities were directly involved in working towards two EU targets – on landfill and recycling. This had seen a radical reduction in landfill per household by 78 per cent in the last decade, brought about through the delivery of a range of waste treatment infrastructure by councils.

The UK achieved a recycling rate of 44.9 per cent in 2014. Stockton Borough Council had a recycling rate of 26.6%.

Recycling rates for household waste needed to increase. Evidence provided and research into best practice showed that through reducing the capacity for residual waste disposal increases recycling participation and increases tonnages.

The Committee was also keen to raise residents' awareness and simplify the identification of recyclable material that can be collected. Support was given to any information and delivery method that could be employed which would ensure any potential changes combine a full communications and implementation plan to ensure residents have all detailed information to ensure minimum confusion.

RESOLVED that:-

1. A consultation exercise be carried out across a statistically relevant proportion of Stockton Borough residents from all areas of the Borough to determine views on kerbside recycling and, more importantly, to understand how residents can further contribute and support increasing recycling participation rates in the future.
2. A further piece of work be undertaken which assesses the suitability of Stockton Borough Council's current recycling receptacles to determine whether improvements would encourage greater participation in the future, whilst ensuring that the current collection method of separating at source remains to comply with EU legislation and maximises the benefits of increased recycling.
3. A full analysis of cost be carried out based upon the current collection arrangements, including financial impact of household growth

as well as a review of potential cost savings associated with a change in waste and recycling collection arrangements, which support improved recycling participation.

4. Stockton Council actively promotes and informs residents of the benefits that can be achieved from recycling based upon existing collection methods in order to educate and provide an impetus to increase recycling rates in the borough.

5. Additional support be established alongside any change in collection methods which would encourage greater participation e.g. waste awareness and education campaigns.

6. A review of the current green waste collection service and alternative collection arrangements be undertaken, which will also include how to reduce the level of green waste presented in residual waste bins.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The Place Select Committee's Review of Kerbside Waste Collection has examined the possible causes for the low level of recycling in the borough and puts forward recommendations to raise the collection levels to reach the national target.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight, 29th April 2016

Proper Officer
25 April 2016