

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**21 APRIL 2016**

**REPORT OF PLACE SELECT  
COMMITTEE**

**CABINET DECISION**

**Environment and Housing – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Smith**

**SCRUTINY REVIEW OF KERBSIDE WASTE COLLECTION**

1. Summary

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

On average, each household in Stockton generates 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 is 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.

2. Recommendations

1. A consultation exercise is 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. To undertake a further piece of work 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 is 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. To consider whether any additional support should be established alongside any change in collection methods which would encourage greater participation e.g. waste awareness and education campaigns.
6. That a review of the current green waste collection service and alternative collection arrangements is undertaken, which will also include how to reduce the level of green waste presented in residual waste bins.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

1. 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. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

**Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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**SCRUTINY REVIEW OF KERBSIDE WASTE COLLECTION**

**SUMMARY**

The attached report presents the Place Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of Kerbside Waste Collection.

Although residents are highly satisfied with the kerbside waste collection service the level of recycling is low in comparison with the majority of other local authorities. This could be improved if residents put all recyclable materials into the recycling container as opposed to their wheeled bin. Stockton Council's maximum waste diversion (recycling) rate would then be 44.9% and match the national target for England.

The Committee's report makes recommendations to address this issue.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. A consultation exercise is 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. To undertake a further piece of work 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 is 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. To consider whether any additional support should be established alongside any change in collection methods which would encourage greater participation e.g. waste awareness and education campaigns.

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

## **DETAIL**

1. The Kerbside Waste Collection Service is a key council service which affects all residents of the Borough. Waste and recycling services are currently delivered by the Care For Your Area team and feature the collection of materials in the following:
  - 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
2. Residual Waste is serviced by a weekly waste collection using 240ltr wheeled bins or black waste sacks. A larger container, if qualified, of a 360ltr bin can be requested for residents with 6 or more permanent occupants.
3. Recycling waste is 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
4. Green Waste is 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).
5. Local authorities are currently directly involved in working towards two EU targets – on landfill and recycling. This has 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.
6. The UK achieved a recycling rate of 44.9 per cent in 2014. Stockton Borough Council had a recycling rate of 26.6%.
7. Recycling rates for household waste need to increase. Evidence provided and research into best practice shows that through reducing the capacity for residual waste disposal increases recycling participation and increases tonnages.
8. 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.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

9. The recommendations in this report will not have any implications impacting on any specific community group in the borough and does not seek approval for a new policy, strategy, or change in the delivery of a service.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. Cost implications could be incurred if a change to the collection methodology of recyclables was made.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

11. None

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

12. This review of kerbside waste collection is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

13. A cleaner, greener Stockton-on-Tees with high quality housing provision: Provide clean streets, attractive parks and green spaces.

## **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

14. This report does not contain corporate parenting implications.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

15. No consultation was undertaken for this review. Consultation will result from acceptance of the recommendations.

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Education related? No

Background Papers N/A

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: N/A

Property N/A