

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

Report of the Executive Director of Place

Improving the paper and card collection service

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to collect paper and card together in the same recycling collection service.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Approve the proposed changes to discontinue collecting paper separately in the white paper recycling sack.
- 2.2 Approve the proposed changes to collect all paper and cardboard together in the blue bin.
- 2.3 To approve advertising the proposed service changes in local media.

3. Introduction

- 3.1 Cabinet previously supported the Waste Collection Service to collect cardboard separate from green waste and to collect paper in a white sack. (Cab.9.1 0.2013/9.2). This was in support of proposed service efficiencies which were subject of the report KLOE/DEV/ENV.16 – improvement 5 to reduce the disposal costs for the service by £250k.
- 3.2 In the same report maintaining a separate paper collection helped to generate an income to the authority of c£400k. For 16/17 this had reduced by £198k. For cardboard at the time of the report we expected an income of c£200k. For 16/17 this had increased by £122k.
- 3.3 During this period since 2014, Barnsley's paper recycling has reduced by 45%. For 2016/2017, the reduction has been almost twice the average national rate of decline. Whilst at the same time annual increases of up to 18% growth in online sales have led to an increase in tonnages of cardboard being collected.
- 3.4 The current method of collection is unpopular with residents and the white sack is a deterrent to paper recycling; leading to more paper being disposed of via general waste (grey bins).
- 3.5 The annual cost of supplying the white sacks is c£8k, each year this becomes a greater proportion of the income generated from the separate collection.

3.6 This now represents the optimum time to review the separate collection as the existing fleet are due for replacement; and the value of the separate collection no longer stands.

4. Proposal and justification

4.1 Due to the increase in digital media and the resulting decline in paper recycling, we are proposing that paper recycling is collected together with cardboard in the blue bin.

4.2 The use of white sack is unpopular with residents for a number of reasons:

- It's heavy;
- It's cumbersome;
- Paper blows down the street; and
- The bag blows away when empty.

The above is seen as a contributing factor to the 18% (16/17) decline in the recycling rate for paper, almost double the national average of 10%.

Removing white sacks will also remove the need for replacements and its associated annual costs c£8k.

4.3 Based on the above, by using the blue bin for both paper and card it is predicted that this will lead to an increase in the overall recycling rate for the following reasons:-

- Residents can combine paper and card recycling;
- Residents can use the existing blue bin for both materials;
- Residents can wheel all recycling to the kerbside;
- Residents need to take less items to the kerbside and;
- Will increase the likelihood of residents recycling their paper with card. .

From analysis of material data collected since 2014, supplemented by periodic waste composition analysis. It is anticipated that the introduction of combined paper and card collection will lead to an increase of co-mingled paper and card recycling by up to 5%.

4.4 Significant global pressures on the waste hierarchy mean that many countries are developing strategies to reduce the quantities of plastics being used in packaging. This will lead to an increase use of more readily recyclable materials such as card and paper pulp-based products.

4.5 In addition, the separate collection of paper and card requires the use of specialist refuse collection vehicles; known as 'Split Body vehicles'. Split Body vehicles reduce the overall capacity that the vehicles can collect by up to 30% before it needs to be emptied. As a result they are inefficient in comparison to single body collection vehicles. Split Body vehicles are also more expensive to purchase and incur higher maintenance costs over their lifespan when compared to single body vehicles.

- 4.6 The use of Split Body vehicles also creates operational issues due to the limited number of them within the fleet. In the event of a breakdown, a replacement Split Body vehicle is required to continue separate collection whereas if single body vehicles were to be introduced, these could be more readily sourced from within the existing fleet.

As a result the waste collection service has, on occasions when Split Body vehicles broke down, had to consider the following potential impacts to the service of;

- Collecting on a later date/time through the use of overtime;
- Not collecting until the next collection date;
- Using a single bodied vehicle and combining the paper and card recycling;
- Using two single body vehicles to collect paper and card separately.

- 4.7 The introduction of combined paper and card collections will allow the waste collection service to use single body vehicles and the increased flexibility will result in a more consistent and an overall better collection service for residents, it will:

- Reduce the time taken to collect one bin instead of one bin and one sack; Reduce the total annual numbers of trips to BMBCs paper and card recycling contractor and;
- Provide additional capacity required to meet the boroughs' growing housing stock; and
- It will enable the recycling service to reconfigure the current recycling rounds to optimise the use of available resources.

- 4.8 The current fleet of split body vehicles is due for replacement in 2018, this combined with the joint combined collection of paper and card in the blue bin, the outcome of recycling route optimisation and the Future Council Improvement Review of Waste Collection Services. Creates an opportunity to evaluate the size of the current waste and recycling fleet and reduce service expenditure without impacting service quality.

- 4.9 It is recommended that the plan to communicate the change utilises paid advertising in local media to address the benefits of the change and what actions we will be asking residents to take.

5. Consideration of alternative approaches

- 5.1 Do nothing; we could leave the current collection arrangements unchanged but this will not realise the benefits and opportunities as outlined above. Furthermore, it would impact on being able to provide a sustainable and efficient service for residents.

6. Implications for local people and service users

- 6.1 Residents will need to put paper recycling in their blue bin.
- 6.2 Residents will no longer need to present the white sack for collection at the kerbside.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 Consultation on the financial implications has taken place with colleagues in Financial Services on behalf of the Service Director – Finance (S151).
- 7.2 It is anticipated that as a result of the reduction in the amount of paper being recycled that the current blue bin provision for cardboard will be able to deal with the minor increase in capacity.
- 7.3 In addition to the above there is also a small annual cost associated with the service change mainly as a result of the lower income to be generated from co-mingled as opposed to separate recyclable materials. The total additional cost is estimated to be around £18,000 per annum. This cost is expected to be more than offset over time through the on-going efficiencies to be delivered as a result of the change. As highlighted in paragraph 4.6 above the move to combined paper and card will reduce collection times and reduce the numbers of trips to the Council's recycling contractor. This change will also be an enabler to wider service improvements within the waste collection team to reduce existing pressures together with providing additional service capacity to meet the boroughs' growing housing stock.
- 7.4 The financial implications are detailed in Appendix A to this report.

8. Employee implications

- 8.1 Removing the use of white sacks reduces the risk of injury to our collection crews.

9. Communications implications

- 9.1 This change of service will be communicated via the waste and recycling communications plan.
- 9.2 Web pages will be updated to reflect what recycling will go in which bin.

10. Consultations

- 10.1 Consultations have taken place with Waste Operations, Contracts and Data Management, Finance and Human Resources.

11. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

- 11.1 The recommended change to combined paper and card aligns to our one council priorities; customer focus, commercial acumen, efficient delivery of projects and programmes, flexible workforce and enabling organisation.

12. Promoting equality, diversity and social inclusion

- 12.1 The changes will benefit all residents; including those less able and don't qualify for an assisted collection, will find it easier to participate.

13. Tackling health inequalities

13.1 The changes will benefit all residents; including those less able that don't qualify for an assisted collection will find it easier to participate in kerbside collections.

14. Reduction of crime and disorder

14.1 Not presenting white sacks will reduce anti-social behaviour and litter.

15. Risk management issues

15.1 Key Risk Affecting Funding for Local and Strategic Schemes:
Risks associated with Future Funding

15.2 Paper and card recycling is processed within the UK paper mills, albeit commodities are susceptible to global market supply and demand pressures.

15.3 Residents do not adopt the revised service – communication and engagement package required.

16. Health, safety and emergency resilience Issues

16.1 Removing the need to lift and carry white sack reducing the manual handling risks and associated injuries for both waste operatives and residents.

17 Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights

17.1 The proposed changes do not affect human rights.

18 Conservation of biodiversity

18.1 The proposed changes do not affect biodiversity.

19. List of appendices

19.1 Appendix A – financial implications.

21 Background papers

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