

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014/15**

**CABINET**

**31 July 2014**

**CHANGES TO WASTE COLLECTIONS**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

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1.

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1

This report outlines the Council's proposed changes to its waste collection service, by minimising the amount of side waste (excess rubbish) residents can put out for collection.

2.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2.1

It is recommended that Members:

2.2

Agree the proposed changes set out in this report and in Appendix 1.

3.

**BACKGROUND**

3.1

The Council up until the June 2013 undertook the collection of black bag/wheelie bin through a weekly collection service.

3.2

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2013 the Council introduced a fortnightly collection service of black bag/bin waste. The recycling service remained unchanged, as weekly collections.

3.3

As part of the fortnightly collections, the Council also introduced a weekly opt in nappy recycling scheme whereby a resident could register to be part of the scheme and have their nappies collected on a weekly basis free of charge.

3.4

One of the key aims of this change was to encourage more residents to recycle and thus reduce the amount of black bag/bin waste going to landfill and thus help the Council achieve the challenging recycling targets set down by Welsh Government.

3.5

The waste and recycling service has already made significant changes in recent years, however these further proposals highlight that the service can deliver even more environmental and sustainable benefits with potential for further savings.

#### **4.0 Next Steps**

- 4.1 Despite these changes, further measures need to be adopted in order to reduce the amount of waste still going to landfill and for the council to meet its recycling targets.
- 4.2 With the limited powers available to councils to do this, most councils in Wales have introduced a limit on the amount of waste that can be put out for collection.
- 4.3 In 2013/14 RCTCBC managed 73,706 tonnes of kerbside collected waste, of which 35,038 tonnes was landfilled and of this 34,147 tonnes recycled. Over the last few years the amount of residual waste has reduced due to the falling of overall waste and increased recycling.
- 4.4 Last year saw the residual waste in RCTCBC drop more than any other council in Wales but despite this, there are still many residents not recycling.
- 4.5 National analysis of black bag/residual bin waste shows that at least 70% of the material placed out for collection is of recyclable material
- 4.6 Whilst collections are fortnightly, there is currently no limit on the number of black bags/ bins that can be placed out for collection.
- 4.7 If all of this material was captured via the recycling service, this would equate to a substantial amount of waste being diverted from landfill and based on the difference between landfill costs and recycling costs, it would make a substantial saving.
- 4.8 More importantly, if this level of change took place, it would see our recycling rate rise dramatically and see us achieve the recycling targets. It must however be stressed that 100% capture of all recyclable material is very difficult and any modelling and budget will not be based on 100% capture. For any future modelling work, capture rates of between 60-85% will be used.

#### **5.0 The Proposed Policy/Scheme**

- 5.1 Councils under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (46(1)) have powers to require householders to place waste for collection in receptacles of a kind and number specified. This measure is used to promote sustainable waste management. By clearly specifying materials and containment recycling can be promoted and landfill/disposal reduced.

5.2 It is proposed that:-

- If a resident has a 240 litre bin, no side waste
- If a resident has a 120 litre bin, 1 black bag of side waste is permitted
- In the former Rhondda borough a resident can put out 4 black bags –excluding ash waste
- Any additional black bags will not be collected
- Two additional bags per household may be placed out the first collection after Christmas Day
- Additional allowance maybe given for families who struggle to recycle and contain their waste within the proposed allowances. They are encouraged to contact RCTCBC and an Awareness Officer will visit them to discuss maximising recycling.
- Ash waste will be collected in manageable sized black bags and this will be in addition to the proposed permitted amount of residual waste
- For residents who may struggle with their waste management we encourage them to contact us and we will work and support them and if need be, alternative arrangements put in place to the standard scheme
- For communal areas – the same scheme is proposed, but we recognise that these are more difficult to monitor, so ongoing work in these areas and communities will continue.
- Areas where there are Houses of Multiple Occupants/RSL's will be subject to ongoing reviews and potentially have differing permissions based on area need
- Residents will be encouraged and supported through the change. Enforcement/fines are not proposed initially although if there are repeat offenders and awareness and education is not working, enforcement could be used as a last resort.

5.3 With these changes the profile of the recycling and waste service will be:-

- Weekly dry recycling – RCTCBC provides clear bags free of charge
- Weekly food collections – RCTCBC provides liners for caddy and large food waste bin free of charge
- Weekly nappy/adult hygiene recycling collections (Opt in scheme) – RCTCBC provides purple bags free of charge
- Weekly green waste collection – RCTCBC provides clear bags free of charge
- Weekly clinical waste scheme and sharps collections (opt in scheme). RCTCBC provides yellow bags and sharps bin on behalf of the Cwm Taf Health Board
- Fortnightly residual waste collection
- Bring Sites

- 5 Community Recycling Centres
- Chargeable bulky waste collection service

## **6.0 Communicating the Change**

6.1 Communications and understanding the new scheme is pivotal to its success. A communication plan will be drafted and split in two parts

- Raising awareness of the change
- Implementation of the change

6.2 Raising awareness – it is important that people understand that change is coming, that they know why it is coming and any issues brought forward at an early stage so they can be addressed to assist any implementation. It is anticipated that the main activity will be through:-

- Posters on our Banner Boards
- Livery on council vehicles
- Press briefings
- Use of social media
- Door knocking (budget permitting)

6.3 Implementation – the main implementation is the production and delivery to every householder of the updated information. It is anticipated that we will implement on a phased approach, former borough by borough to ensure a smooth transition and that we have the resources to manage that change over.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

The changes are aimed at targeting residents who are still not recycling much of their waste, despite many years of education and awareness raising campaigns there are still many residents not recycling.

This change in the service is aimed at ensuring we have the tools to tackle this problem and get more residents recycling on a weekly basis

The change will bring sustainable benefits to the Council whilst the residual waste changes should see an overall reduction in waste produced, a reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill and an increase in recycling.