

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
14 March 2017

Subject: **AMENDMENTS TO THE WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION POLICY**

All Wards
Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health, Waste and Recycling: Councillor S Watson

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for changes to the Waste and Recycling Collection Policy which was approved by Cabinet in December 2015. The amendments aim to ensure that contamination of the recyclate is controlled and that revenues from the sale of the recycled materials are maximised as prices for recycled materials recover.
- 1.2 The present recycling contract commenced in January 2016 and expires in March 2019. The Waste and Recycling Collection Policy set out rules and standards to provide clarity for residents about how the system operates and what responsibilities they and the Council have.
- 1.3 The policy covers assisted collections, side waste, putting out receptacles for emptying, bin replacement and repair, additional waste and recycling bins, enforcement procedures and services to charities and community organisations.
- 1.4 The Council operate a twin stream recycling collection with glass collected in a box and a range of other materials collected in a 240 litre bin. This method of collecting materials can be subject to higher levels of contamination from non-target materials than the kerbside sort system previously employed. While a certain level of contamination has been allowed for in the contract, communication with the residents needs to be clear and a course of action identified when contamination arises.

2.0 PRESENT ISSUE:

- 2.1 The Council's contract with Wards Recycling Limited allows for a contamination rate of 10% by weight. At the beginning of the contract period contamination was around 5%. Levels of contamination have been steadily increasing since then, to a peak of 16% in September 2016. Wards Recycling Limited advise that levels of contamination often rise during contract periods. Common contaminants are glass in the 240litre bin, wet cardboard, plastic film and items tied in opaque sacks which cannot be sorted.
- 2.2 Within the terms of the contract Wards Recycling Limited can charge Hambleton for disposal costs of any contamination above 10%. This is presently charged at £87 per tonne. There is an additional charge for loss of income from the sale of the material.
- 2.3 The price the Council receives for its dry recyclate is not fixed for the duration of the contract but is reviewed quarterly based on a 'basket price' according to an industry standard price index published by 'Let's Recycle'. The Council has failed to fully benefit from improving prices due to the costs described in para 2.2 above. If the contamination had been brought under 10%, an increase in income would have been shown due to the increase in basket price.

2.4 The service has taken steps to reduce the amount of contamination presented at the kerbside. These include regular monitoring visits to the recycling plant by the Waste and Street Scene Manager, crew briefings, visual checks at the kerbside, stickers placed on contaminated bins and making information on the service as accessible as possible to residents. These measures have had an impact, but have not influenced residents who frequently contaminate their bins to take the required action.

3.0 **PROPOSED FURTHER ACTION**

3.1 It is proposed to make amendments to the Waste and Recycling Collection Policy to bring in further measures to reduce the contamination and increase the income. These changes are detailed in the Amended Policy at Annex A.

- The first time a contaminated bin is presented it will not be emptied until the next scheduled collection, provided the contamination has been removed, and a leaflet with details of the contamination will be hand delivered by the refuse crew.
- At the second instance of contamination the bin will not be emptied and a further letter will be sent to the property detailing the expected standard.
- On the third occasion, a warning letter will be issued informing the resident that collections will cease should the contamination continue.
- On the fourth occasion the service will be suspended for a period of three months and re-introduced with close monitoring.

3.2 It is also proposed that where problems occur with communal collection points, individual properties may receive an individual service.

4.0 **LINK TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES:**

4.1 The proposal links to the Council Priorities by supporting the following aims and objectives in the Council Plan under the Caring for the Environment Priority:

- Reduce kerbside collected residual waste.
- Increase the recycling rate.
- Improving the efficiency of waste collections and recycling.

5.0 **RISK ASSESSMENT:**

5.1 There are no significant risks in accepting the recommendation.

5.2 The key risks in not approving the recommendation are set out below:

Risk	Implication	Prob*	Imp*	Total	Preventative action
Increasing loss of income from increased contamination.	Savings needing to be made in other areas.	5	3	15	Adoption of the amended Waste and Recycling Collection Policy.
Recycling loads rejected due to increased contamination.	Disputes with the contractor and extra costs of dealing with whole load rejection.	4	3	12	Adoption of the amended Waste and Recycling Collection Policy

Prob = Probability, Imp = Impact, Score range is Low = 1, High = 5

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 The Council is failing to fully benefit from the recovery in recycling prices. If the contamination rate was below 10% then additional income would have been generated and no costs would have been incurred for disposal. This represents an estimated overall reduction in income of £24,000 for 2016/17. If recycling prices continue to recover the financial impact will increase.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 There are no legal implications with this proposal.

8.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES:

8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues associated with this proposal.

9.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES:

9.1 There are no health and safety issues associated with this proposal.

10.0 RECOMMENDATION:

10.1 That Cabinet approves the amended Waste Collection Policy as set out in Annex A.

PAUL STAINES

Background papers:	None
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