

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE ORGANISATION POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 14TH MARCH 2017

SUBJECT OF REPORT: NEW RECYCLING, WASTE CONTRACT

TOWN OR PARISH: DISTRICT WIDE

OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: COLIN RUSSELL, RECYCLING & WASTE SERVICE MANAGER

KEY DECISION: NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel notes the commencement of the new recycling and waste contract on 1st March 2017, and continues to monitor performance as the arrangements under the new contract embed.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report presents a number of the changes to service under the new contract arrangements, as highlighted to all councillors by the Executive Member in a written briefing on 21st February 2017. The Panel's Waste Scrutiny Steering Group has continued to work closely with officers from the Recycling and Waste Management Team, and would like to thank them for their continued constructive engagement with the scrutiny process throughout.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 One of the aims of the Council's Corporate Plan is to protect and improve the environment. A key priority included within this is to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill
- 2.2 The Municipal Waste Strategy 2013-17 was approved and adopted by Council in February 2013.

- 2.3 One of the shared priorities in North Somerset Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy is 'living within environmental limits'. One of the aims of this priority is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reducing landfill is a key component of this.

3. DETAILS

- 3.1 The new recycling and waste contract commenced on 1st March 2017. This introduces a number of changes to the service provided to North Somerset, including:

3.2 Kerbside collections

- Collection of small items of electrical equipment (up to the size of a small toaster) will be collected by the kerbside recycling crews
- Vehicles will have 360 degree cameras fitted which will help reduce missed collections and reduce the amount of 'road rage' caused by impatient drivers trying to get past collection vehicles by dangerously mounting pavements
- Crews will record all assisted collections carried out and the contact centre and our client team will be able to get near 'real time' information on crew collection progress during the day, which will help residents when they report any missed collections
- Crews will record and take photos of any justified missed collections such as contaminated recycling boxes, double bins/side waste or parked cars which prevents collections taking place. Again this will help contact centre when they receive calls from residents.
- A commercial waste service will be available for small businesses to sign up to.
- Food waste collection will be rolled out to flats
- Garden waste will be collected from bins rather than the existing bag service. Smaller bags are available by exception to those properties which have bagged waste collection or in other circumstances where bin collection is not feasible.
- Bulky waste collections will be carried out by Changing Lives on a trial period. This will reduce costs and increase reuse of items.

3.3 Recycling Centres

- Hard plastics (such as garden furniture) and plate glass will be able to be recycled at all three sites
- There will be dedicated reuse areas at all three sites. These items will be used by a local supplier such as Changing Lives, North Somerset Reuse Project or Somerset Wood recycling where items will be prepared and then sold for reuse.
- Small businesses will be able to use the centres at a charge to recycle or dispose of a limited amount of material (up to 10 bags). This will not be available from 1 March but introduced April/May. The intention of this is to help small businesses and reduce fly-tipping.
- Charges for construction/DIY material will be introduced from 3rd April (there is a one bag per visit free allowance for these materials).
- Staff will be incentivised to divert reuse and recycling from the residual waste bins.
- Staff will have body cams to reduce conflict
- Web cams will be at all sites which will show how busy sites are and for residents to view on-line.

- There are changes to the opening hours at the sites with Backwell being closed on Wednesday and Thursday and Portishead on Tuesday.
- The changes to opening hours and charging for DIY waste is expected to save £225k per annum and is part of the council's agreed MTFP.

3.4 **Local Social Value**

- 3-5% of the workforce will be in apprenticeships or traineeships

3.5 **Garden Waste**

- The change to bins for collecting garden waste has been going well and all those households registered by mid-February will have their bins delivered before garden waste collections commence from 1 March. We will undoubtedly have more residents registering once collections start and report they were not aware of the change to service. To deal with this, there will be additional contact centre staff to deal with registration calls and more capacity at the recycling centres for receiving garden waste. Once registered we will deliver bins to residents as soon as possible.
- The old garden waste bags that are placed out on the highway will be tagged with advice on how to register for the service, garden waste can be taken to the recycling centres free of charge and requesting that the bag is removed from the highway.

4. **CONSULTATION**

The Waste Management Team has worked in close consultation with the Waste Scrutiny Steering Group and the CCO Policy and Scrutiny Panel throughout.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Maximisation of recycling in North Somerset would save £1.5m from the Council's annual budget.

6. **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

An equality impact assessment was completed prior to approval of the North Somerset Municipal Waste Strategy.

7. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

The reduction in waste sent to landfill will have significant implications for the council's service delivery, both in terms of reputation and mitigation of financial penalties.

AUTHOR

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Award of Contract for Recycling and Waste collection and Household Waste Recycling Centres – report to Council on 19th July 2016
- Briefing to Councillors from the Executive Member for Environment on 21st February 2017