

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Community Services Committee
DATE	10 September 2013
REPORT TITLE	Provision of Recycling Containers
REPORT OF	Waste Development & Contracts Manager
WARDS AFFECTED	All West Devon Wards

Summary of report:

The Informal Waste Project Group has considered the impact of recent budgetary restrictions on the provision of recycling containers and proposes that the Community Services Committee gives consideration to charging for replacement recycling containers under specific circumstances.

Financial implications:

In the last financial year, the cost of procurement of all recycling containers and lids was around £27,500. The recent scouring exercise has reduced the available revenue budget for this financial year to £14,500.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Informal Waste Project Group is recommending that the Community Services Committee:

1. authorises the change of procedure which allows for charging for recycling containers under circumstances as presented in paragraphs 3.2 to 3.5 of this report; and,
2. that any changes considered necessary to the terms as highlighted in this report are delegated to the Head of Environmental Services in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Services Committee.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council supplies waste containers for recycling to domestic properties. The containers are supplied to the property for the use of the occupants and should not be removed when the occupant moves on. They remain the property of the Council at all times.
- 1.2 The Council do not in general provide containers for domestic refuse and this report deals only with containers for recycling purposes.
- 1.3 Since the service change in 2010, around 40% more households receive garden waste collections and 65% more households receive food waste collections. The number of domestic properties within the borough has also continuously increased and both these factors have contributed to a rise in the cost of supplying containers.
- 1.4 The total amount spent on all recycling containers in 2012-13 amounted to around £27,500. However, current financial pressures have resulted in a reduction in the funds available during this and future financial years. There is increasing pressure to ensure that the budget reflects true need and that public funds are used effectively.
- 1.5 Evidence shows that residents and businesses are using the containers for purposes other than household waste recycling. In addition, an amount of useable containers are disposed of by residents each year, possibly because they are perceived to have little value as they can be obtained easily and free of charge.
- 1.6 Whilst the cost of delivery of recycling containers to households is within the waste contract price, there is a need to be mindful of the environmental impact of deliveries across the widespread district of West Devon and the effect that excess deliveries incur on the rest of the service by diverting resources.

2. RECENT IMPROVEMENTS

- 2.1 A number of improvement to the way containers are procured, stored and distributed have already been agreed by the informal waste project group. A number of procedural changes have also been approved which include encouraging residents to pick up containers from outreach visits, swapping rather than simply replacing damaged stock, reclaiming misused containers, and specifying the maximum number of containers allowed per property based on the number of residents in the property.

3. CHARGING PROPOSAL

- 3.1 These improvements alone are unlikely to meet the budget shortfall and do not fully address misuse issues. The introduction of charges, in certain circumstances, is therefore recommended.
- 3.2 In order to continue to offer an equitable service, each domestic property will continue to be allowed, in the first instance, the following free of charge:

Maximum of 2 x recycling boxes*

1 x kerbside caddy* & 1 x kitchen caddy
Maximum of 4 x garden sacks
Lids

*Additional boxes and kerbside caddies will be allowed dependent on number of adults in the household.

- 3.3 Worn or damaged containers will be swapped on a one to one basis.
- 3.4 All other requests may be subject to the following charges which will cover current prices and minimum administration costs:
- | | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Recycling box | £5.00 |
| Large food caddy | £5.00 |
| Small food caddy | £1.50 |
| Garden waste sack | £1.50 |
- 3.5 More emphasis will be made on communicating with residents and landlords that the containers remain the property of the Council and should at all times remain with that property.
- 3.6 The Informal Waste Project Group will evaluate the service and review costs on an annual basis.
- 3.7 Introducing charges for additional recycling containers is unlikely to raise any significant income, however it is expected to reduce demand and therefore improve the financial and environmental sustainability of the service.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report is related to the powers outlined in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 which outlines the Council's statutory duty to collect waste in a way determined by the collecting authority. As part of its statutory obligation the Council should periodically review the service for efficiency and effectiveness.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In the last financial year, the cost of procurement of all recycling containers and lids was around £27,500. The recent scouring exercise has reduced the available revenue budget for this financial year to £14,500. Whilst charging for containers is unlikely to raise enough income to bridge this gap, it is anticipated that demand for containers will reduce thus reducing the pressure on the current and future years' budgets.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The Risk Management implications are shown at the end of this report in the Strategic Risks Template.

7. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate priorities	Community Life
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engaged:	Environment Economy
Statutory powers:	The Environment Protection Act 1990
Considerations of equality and human rights:	Improved distribution through outlets such as outreach will improve local availability for collection.
Biodiversity considerations:	Not applicable
Sustainability considerations:	The contract will allow the Council to continue to its commitment to maintain and improve recycling services
Crime and disorder implications:	Not applicable
Background papers:	None
Appendices	None

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status				Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	Revenue Budget	Savings may not be enough to meet shortfall	3	3	9	↔	Policies must be clear and robust	Waste Development & Contract Manager
2	Recycling participation reduced	Participation may be reduced if residents perceive this as a reduction in service	3	1	3	↓	Changes will be communicated comprehensively and with sensitivity.	Waste Development & Contract Manager