

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO DMT

1. Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Streetpride
2. Date:	19th July 2010
3. Title:	Wheeled Bin Replacement Policy
4. Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

Since wheeled bins were introduced there has been no review of the policy for replacements; this report proposes options for charging for consideration by Members. Recovering some of the cost for the provision of waste containers will enable the council to maintain services.

6. Recommendations

Cabinet Member is asked resolve that:

- 1. The option(s) and exemptions to charge for the provision of waste containers as contained in the report are adopted;**
- 2. The charges are implemented as soon as possible, but not later than end of September 2010;**
- 3. That charges are based on the principle of pre-payment for the service; and**
- 4. That a further report on the impact of the policy be made to Cabinet Member after 6 months.**

7. Proposals and Details

Since the introduction of wheeled bins in Rotherham there has been no review of policy with regards to charging for the replacement of refuse containers. This report contains options for charging for Members' consideration.

Current situation

The Council sets out its wheeled bin policy under the legislation contained in Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Section 46 provides that the local authority can define the kind, number and size of waste receptacles. The receptacles can be provided free of charge (single or periodic payment) or require the occupier to provide them. The occupier may be required to provide them himself if he does not agree to purchase them from the Council (as long as they conform fully to the Council specifications).

Households in Rotherham are currently provided with:

- 240 litre black bin (for residual waste)
- 240 litre green bin (for green waste)
- 50 litre blue box (for bottles, jars, cans, textiles, aluminium foil, and shoes)
- 35 litre blue bag (for waste paper recycling)

Multi Occupancy dwellings have:

either

- 1100 litre eurobin (for residual waste)
- or
- 240 litre black bin (for residual waste)

and

- 240 litre green bin (for green waste)
- 50 litre blue box / blue multi material bag (for bottles, jars, cans, textiles, aluminium foil, and shoes)
- 35 litre blue bag (for waste paper recycling)

If a wheeled bin or recycling container is lost, stolen or damaged a new container is provided free of charge (this includes free delivery).

A benchmarking exercise has been carried out with other Council's. Appendix 1 summarises other Council's arrangements. The main points of the analysis show:

- Half of the Councils charge occupiers of new build properties for waste containers.
- Some of the Councils charge residents for black 240 litre bins.
- No Councils charge for green 240 litre bins or recycling containers.
- One Council charges for waste container delivery only.

Options

Option	Detail
1	<i>Charge occupiers of new developments for refuse and recycling containers (includes delivery).</i>
2	<i>Charge for 240 litre black wheeled bins. (includes delivery).</i>
3	<i>Charge for 240 litre green wheeled bins. (includes delivery).</i>
4	<i>Charge for new blue boxes (includes delivery).</i>
5	<i>Charge for new blue bags (includes postage).</i>
6	<i>Charge for delivery only of green wheeled bin, but residents can collect free of charge from the depot.</i>

It is recommended that charges are introduced for options **1, 2 and 6** above.

For the options detailed above the following exemptions could be applied

Exemption	Category
1	Fired bins
2	Stolen bins
3	Damaged bins (by RMBC)
4	Extra 140 Litre residual bin for large families
5	Rothercard (50% discount on bin and delivery)

Requests to replace Stolen Bins would need to be supported by a police incident number.

For those containers where a charge is applied, Developers/Residents would have a choice to provide their own refuse containers as long as they conform fully to the Council specifications.

Note: the Council already charges for the provision of compost bins.

8. Finance

Charging residents for wheeled bins would generate income for the Council and assist in maintaining waste management services. Charging for wheeled bins would also assist in making the Council finances more sustainable. Delivery cost for refuse containers would be £8 for one to four items, and the service would be prepaid. Delivery would be within 10 working days of payment. There would be additional costs incurred in setting up payment systems and setting up a new process in the Streetpride call centre for the new arrangements and there would also be increased call volumes. The estimated cost for setting up this new arrangement has not yet been established. The potential annual income from the above options is detailed below:

Option	Detail	2009/10 number of requests	Cost	Income per annum
1	Charge for provision of refuse and recycling containers to new properties & developments 240 litre 1100 litre	372)) 43)	£57)) £ 294)	£ 34,000
2	Charge for replacement 240 litre and 140 litre black bin for residual waste (includes delivery). 240 litre 140 litre	3439)) 645)	£30)) £27)	£ 121,000
6	Charge for delivery only, but residents can collect free of charge from the depot.	Est 2740	£8	£ 21,920

The financial effect of the exemptions is detailed below:

Exemption	Category	Reduced income per annum
1	Fired bins	£4,000
2	Stolen bins	£ 44,000
3	Damaged bins (by RMBC)	£ 22,000
4	Extra 140 Litre residual bin for large families	£ 17,000
5	Rothercard (50% discount on 240 litre bin and delivery)	£ 2,000

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Charging residents for wheeled bins will present a number of issues for the Council, there may be an increase in anti social behaviour if residents decide not to purchase a bin and fly tip their waste. There could also be enforcement issues with respect to fly tipping. Internal resource issues may be encountered in providing additional customer service facilities. Implementation of this new charging regime is dependent upon RBT devising a payment process, should there be any delay beyond September 2010 the net income to the Council would be reduced.

Residents may also chose not to buy their waste containers from the Council (this may have an effect on the projected income).

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

This policy will assist the Council's finances in becoming more sustainable and help to maintain waste management services. It may have an adverse affect on Rotherham's Municipal Waste Management Strategy by reducing local resident's support of Rotherham's recycling schemes, which to date have proved very successful. It may also have an adverse impact on the Yorkshire and Humber Environmental Sustainability Index.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Waste Strategy for England 2007

Rotherham Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005 - 2010

Yorkshire and Humber Environmental Sustainability Index.

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