

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### **Report to Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel**

**Date**                    **09 January 2014**

**Report of:**            **Director of Street Scene**

**Subject:**              **IMPACT OF WEEKLY REFUSE COLLECTION**

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide information to members on the financial, environmental and logistical impacts of returning to weekly domestic refuse collections in the borough.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That members note the contents of the report.

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. At the Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel meeting on 5 September 2013, it was proposed that a report for information purposes be drafted on the impact of returning to weekly refuse collections in the borough.
2. Fareham Borough Council introduced Alternate Bin Collections along with a free Garden Waste Collection service in September 2005. These changes have increased Fareham's overall recycling rate from 28% in 2005-06 to 38% in 2012-13.
3. In 2007, a Value for Money Review of the Refuse & Recycling Service was conducted. The results helped to inform the Council's decision about the future procurement and delivery of the service. The review concluded the current service delivers value for money and achieves an above average recycling rate.

## **CURRENT WASTE COLLECTION REGIME**

4. The Borough has approximately 48,000 domestic properties which currently receive an alternate weekly refuse and recycling service. Garden waste is also collected once per fortnight from each property. The collection costs to provide these services are met by current budgets (£1.8 million for 2012-13) with the disposal operation and costs managed by Hampshire County Council.
5. Currently the borough is split into 8 main rounds for refuse and recycling collections. Three garden waste rounds collect from half the borough each week split into east and west regions. In addition to these main rounds, a narrow access round operates 3 days per week, collecting from difficult to access properties across the borough. There are two rounds per week collecting from flats. The service requires a total of 21 refuse collection vehicles, 20 drivers and 23 refuse loaders to operate in its current format.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGING TO WEEKLY REFUSE COLLECTIONS**

6. The introduction of weekly refuse collections across the borough would require 4 new refuse collection vehicles, with an additional 4 drivers and 8 loaders to be employed to carry out the collections. This would allow the continuation of fortnightly kerbside recycling and garden waste collections to all residents and minimise disruption to the service.
7. The consequential costs would be approximately £638,000 in capital investment and annual revenue costs of approximately £369,000. Details of these costs can be found at Appendix A.
8. Currently the Council receives an annual revenue of approximately £300,000 from the sale of recycling materials collected from blue top bins. Changing to weekly refuse collections would reduce the amount of recycling collected.
9. If the recycling rate were to drop by 5% this would equate to approximately £40,000 of lost revenue from recycling. If the recycling rate were to drop by 10% and return to 28%, which was the recycling rate before introducing alternate weekly collections, this would result in a loss of annual revenue of approximately £80,000.
10. Other authorities in Hampshire which currently offer weekly refuse collections have a recycling rate of between 23% and 26%.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGING TO WEEKLY REFUSE COLLECTIONS**

11. Carbon footprint is defined as the total amount of greenhouse gases (predominantly carbon dioxide CO<sub>2</sub>) produced to directly and indirectly support an activity. It is measured in tonnes of carbon per year. The current carbon footprint to collect and dispose of all refuse, recycling and garden waste for Fareham Borough Council is approximately 280 tonnes of carbon per year.
12. An additional 33,000 miles per year would be driven by the extra 4 refuse collection vehicles needed to provide weekly refuse collections. This equates to approximately 83 tonnes of carbon per year, a 30% increase on the council's current carbon footprint for all waste collections. Another environmental consideration is the impact on traffic of additional vehicles driving approximately 33,000 miles per year. This would add to congestion and delays across the borough.
13. The number of bins each resident would have to put out will increase. In alternate weeks, the number of bins to be put out will change. In the first week, residents will be required to put out a refuse bin, a recycling bin and a garden waste sack all on the same day for collection. The following week the residents will put out just the refuse bin. In built up areas of the borough this will cause problems due to the number of bins requiring space at the kerbside for each property. It would also have a negative visual impact on the streetscape with the possibility of bins being left out for collection all the time rather than being returned for storage on the residents property between collections.

## **OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGING TO WEEKLY REFUSE COLLECTIONS**

14. The current council depot is near to capacity for vehicles, the addition of 4 more vehicles to the council's fleet would create significant challenges in manoeuvring and parking vehicles safely.
15. With weekly refuse collections, households would have 3 vehicles on collection day for each waste stream one week, and one vehicle collecting refuse the following week. Currently they only have two vehicles for recycling and garden waste one week and one vehicle for refuse the following week.
16. In areas where the narrow access vehicle (NAV) is used to collect alternate weekly collections, this would require residents of this service to have different collection days for each waste stream, so that the NAV vehicle could collect all of their waste separately. Currently this vehicle is used for three days a week and collects from approximately 800 households. These residents would require a specific collection calendar with details of which bin to put on which day. This could result in confusion with nearby streets receiving different collections. Currently the NAV rounds keep to a same schedule as the main rounds for all properties in that area.
17. If more Hampshire authorities reverted to weekly collections, the tonnage of refuse going to the county's energy recovery facilities would increase, putting pressure on the capacity of the infrastructure. The implications would potentially be the diversion of some waste to landfill, or at best, a requirement to increase plant capacity sooner, at significant capital cost.

## **IMPACT ON RECYCLING RATE**

18. Allowing every household to have one 240 litre refuse bin emptied once per week, this would double the current refuse capacity. Increasing the refuse capacity available to residents would result in a reduction in the amount of recyclables collected and therefore have a direct impact on the council's recycling rate.

## **CUSTOMER DEMAND**

19. During the last 3 years the Department of Streetscene has received 3 recorded requests from residents of the borough to return to weekly refuse collections. These have been related to bin odours in the summer months. By offering advice and assistance on keeping the bins cleaned regularly and ensuring all waste is bagged and tied, these problems have been resolved with no further problems reported.

20. To assist residents in dealing with their refuse, households with 6 or more occupants or who have exceptional circumstances can have an additional 180 litre refuse bin to help with capacity. Exceptional circumstances include residents with offensive waste from a medical condition which does not require specific treatment and separate healthcare waste collections. Approximately 600 households currently have an additional refuse bin. All households are entitled to additional recycling bins should they require more capacity.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

21. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report

## **CONCLUSION**

22. The current arrangements in place for the collection of household waste and recycling collection in the borough are working well and provide good value for money. There is little evidence of any demand from residents to revert to weekly residual waste collections. In the few individual cases where there has been an issue with bin capacity, there are already systems in place to deal appropriately with these.

23. Reverting to weekly residual waste collections in the borough would have a significant impact on capital and revenue budgets, have a detrimental effect on the local environment and create a number of logistical challenges in terms of the operation of the service.

### **Background Papers:**

Streetscene Review Panel Report 11 January 2007 – Review of Alternate Weekly Collection Service

### **Reference Papers:**

None

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – Financial Costs Relating to Weekly Refuse Collections

### **Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Kitty Rose. (Ext 4747)

## APPENDIX A – COSTS RELATING TO WEEKLY REFUSE COLLECTIONS

### **Capital Costs**

4 refuse collection vehicles	£618,000
Publicity	£ 20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£638,000</b>

### **Annual Revenue Costs**

Additional 4 crews of 1 driver & 2 loaders	£256,400
Additional staffing for NAV rounds 2 days per week	£ 28,000
Vehicle maintenance costs	£ 27,000
Vehicle cleaning costs	£ 1,600
Fuel costs	£ 56,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£369,000</b>