



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET Draft for Scrutiny

Report of the Head of Streetcare – Mike Roberts

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Use of Containers on Small Vehicle ‘back bag’ Waste Collection Rounds

Purpose of the Report:

To establish a policy in relation to the use of containers by residents on black bag waste collection rounds. This relates to properties in areas where, due to access issues, collections can only be carried out with smaller vehicles without bin lifts.

Executive Summary:

This report is concerned with residual waste collection only, at approximately 3,000 properties across the Borough served by small collection vehicles.

Most residual waste collections in the county borough are carried out using large waste collection vehicles with bin lifts. However, at around 3,000 properties that have difficult access, or are in outlying locations, we cannot use the larger vehicles. Instead, at these properties, we use smaller vehicles to collect waste. These smaller vehicles do not have mechanical bin-lifting equipment, and collections

are carried out manually. As such, we provide black bags to these properties, and ask residents to present their waste in black bags, which can then be manually loaded onto the smaller vehicles.

Increasingly, residents on small vehicle rounds are presenting their black bag waste in containers, many of which are unsuitable for manual collection. For example, residents are presenting their waste in wheeled bins which they have acquired over time.

Whilst black bag waste can be stored in any container that residents wish to use within the confines of their property in between collections, waste presentation has to be suitable for safe operation by the council's waste crews. Clear policy is needed to avoid confusion and ensure consistent service delivery, which should in turn reduce the number of missed collection complaints from properties on small vehicle collection rounds.

This report is intended to formally clarify policy to take effect from 1st April 2025.

Background:

The council provides refuse collections to around 67,000 properties across the county borough, of which just over 3,000 are in outlying or difficult to access locations where the large waste collection vehicles used for wheeled bin collections cannot be used. In these areas the council provides black bags in which residents are required to present their refuse for collection. These collections are undertaken using smaller caged tipper vehicles.

We receive numerous requests from residents on black bag rounds to provide wheeled bins, and these are generally declined because these properties are provided with bags and are on a bag collection service.

The smaller vehicles do not have mechanical bin lifts and crews are unable to lift wheeled bins or oversized containers safely to empty them. Crews have to manually remove each bag from the bin. Aside from time constraints, there are health and safety issues to consider. Depending on the containers used, they include having to 'bin dive' to retrieve bags in the bottom of the bin. In addition, the hazards of manually emptying wheeled bins, including the risk of laceration/needle stick injury, are compounded where residents compact bagged waste within bins.

The operational position on small vehicle black bag waste collection rounds to date has been that no wheeled bins will be provided but residents are instead provided with black bags. Furthermore whilst bagged waste can be stored in any way or in any container chosen by a resident within the confines of their property, containers should not be used for the presentation of waste for collection. The black bags need to be removed from storage containers and the bags must be placed at the kerbside on waste collection day.

Over the years some residents on bag collection rounds have acquired wheeled bins or other containers to store waste, and some of these residents are presenting waste in the containers for collection. Where waste is presented for collection in containers, staff are unable to collect the waste for the health and safety reasons previously referred to. The absence of a clear policy can lead to inconsistent service delivery and confusion with the resulting non-collections generating complaints.

This report is therefore proposed to clarify policy in relation to small vehicle black bag collection rounds.

Financial Impacts:

None.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

An Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The assessment has concluded that the proposed policy should continue as planned.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

A number of properties on small vehicle black bag waste collection rounds are located within our valleys communities.

Workforce Impacts:

The current sporadic and unregulated use of wheeled bins for presentation of waste on black bag collection rounds is leading to issues for employees which this report aims to address.

Whilst risks from sharps within any presentation container which is manually emptied presents a risk to our collection crews, this risk exists for all bag collections and is addressed by risk assessments and method statements.

Legal Impacts:

No Impacts

Risk Management Impacts:

Manual handling risks will be reduced by clarification of policy.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

The Health and Safety Section and collection crews have had input to the proposed policy.

Recommendations:

Having given due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment, it is proposed that Members approve the policy set out in Appendix 1 with respect to the use of containers by residents for presentation of black bagged waste on small vehicle collection rounds, the key points of which are:

- a) On small vehicle black bag collection rounds, residents must place their waste into black bags for collection;
- b) Wheeled bins will not be provided to residents on small vehicle bag collection rounds;
- c) Where waste is put out for collection in containers on small vehicle black bag waste collection rounds it will not be collected;
- d) Council wheeled bins already in circulation being used as containers on black bag collection rounds can be retained by residents within their property for storage between collections if they so wish, but should residents put them out for waste collection they will be removed along with the black bag waste within them (and reused where possible on bin collection rounds).

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To determine policy and a consistent position in relation to the presentation, by residents, of refuse within containers on bag collection rounds.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Use of Containers on Small Vehicle Black Bag Waste Collection Rounds Policy

Appendix 2 Integrated Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers:

None

Officer Contact:

Michael Jones
Acting Waste Services Manager
Email: m.d.jones@npt.gov.uk

Mike Roberts
Head of Streetcare
Email: m.roberts@npt.gov.uk