

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Environment and Highways Scrutiny Committee**

28th January 2016

### **Report of the Chair of Environment and Highways Scrutiny – Cllr. I D Williams**

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

All Wards

#### **No Side Waste Policy**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Members approval to introduce a no side waste policy for the Council with an associated exemption scheme that will assist the Council in meeting the recycling targets set by the Welsh Government.

#### **Executive Summary**

2. A Member Enquiry Group held a number of meetings to consider side waste and the issues are summarised below.
3. The Council is on course to achieve the next recycling target of 58% in 2015/2016 however there are future targets of 64% in 2019/2020 and 70% in 2024/2025.
4. There is currently no limit to the amount of refuse that may be presented by householders for disposal.
5. A recent analysis of the waste shows there are still significant quantities of recyclable and compostable waste being presented in refuse containers.

## Background

6. On 23rd April 2015 the Environment and Highways Scrutiny agreed that a Member Enquiry Group (to be made up of a small number of Members of the Environment and Highways Scrutiny Committee) consider 'side waste' policy and the needs of larger families.
7. Members were unanimous that the amount of refuse that is presented should be restricted by limiting the number of bags in bag collection areas and restricting side waste in wheeled bin areas. Furthermore, that households with more non-recyclable waste than the allowed capacity would need to apply for an exemption to put out additional amounts.
8. A limit on the amount of refuse that householders can present will help maximise the amount of recyclables and organic waste presented for recycling and composting, and assist the Council with the aim of meeting future statutory recycling performance targets.
9. Members considered the phased introduction of a restriction on black bag / wheeled bin collections. A phased introduction allows for a more gradual behavioural change, particularly for households that are not currently recycling.
10. The Council is currently rolling out its improved kerbside recycling service "Recycling+". Phase 1 of the roll out has been completed and Phase 2 is programmed to be completed by the end of the current financial year (2015/2016).
11. The roll out of the final Phase 3 is subject to funding being confirmed, however, taking account of the current vehicle renewal programme completion of Phase 3 is hoped for by Spring 2017.
12. It was recognised that there may be certain circumstances where householders require additional capacity for non-recyclable waste, such circumstances may include households that:
  - a. have larger families;
  - b. present large quantities of disposable nappies;
  - c. present large quantities of ashes; or
  - d. present large quantities of pet litter.

13. The Council should make provision to enable these households to present all of their non-recyclable waste for collection.
14. Where households are able to demonstrate the nature and quantity of their non-recyclable waste then householders could be issued with a number of "exemption" stickers for a 12 month period, similar to the system which has been used in the City and County of Swansea.
15. Households will then be able to present all of their non-recyclable waste for collection, with larger quantities of waste presented in black bags (not provided by the Council) labelled with the "exemption" stickers. If however any waste receptacle presented from a household with an exemption is found to contain recyclable waste it will not be collected other than in the collection immediately after Christmas when no limit will apply generally.
16. Details on the exemption scheme are set out in Appendix 1.

### **Financial Impact**

17. The sticker scheme has no inherent additional container costs; nor container delivery/collection costs; and the renewal obligation for exemptions lies with the householder.
18. The City and County of Swansea operates an exemption scheme and of approximately 110,000 households, there are approximately 1,000 households that have been issued with exemptions, albeit they have also been trialling a separate nappy collection service (but the sustainability of that part of the service is not certain).
19. Pro-rata this Council could anticipate issuing exemptions to approximately 600 households excluding those households presenting large numbers of nappies. In respect of households presenting nappies, census information shows that there are 7,600 households with children aged 0-4 and it is estimated that half of these households present nappies for collection.
20. The Council might anticipate issuing around 4,000 households with exemption stickers at an estimated annual cost of £13,500. There will also be an additional cost to administer the exemption scheme, although experience in Swansea is that these are very modest.
21. It should be noted that this Council currently collects all black bag / wheeled bin waste presented at the kerbside. The Council is moving in the direction of a contractual arrangement where the cost of disposal of

residual waste will be calculated on a price per tonne in place of a fixed fee as present. Therefore, savings from moving waste from disposal to recycling and composting should more than compensate for the administration of the exemption scheme, and it can be stated with some certainty that the scheme can be implemented within existing resources.

### **Sustainable Development**

22. Increasing recycling and composting has a positive impact in relation to the environment and sustainable development.
23. In their Collections Blueprint, for affordable and sustainable local authority collection services, Welsh Government consider that a "no side waste" policy can help reduce the overall amount of waste put out by householders for collection and increases the amount separated out for recycling.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

24. A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Authority in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment, it has been determined that this function does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

### **Workforce Impacts**

25. The only workforce impacts are likely to be operational support in administering the exemption scheme.

### **Legal Impacts**

26. The introduction of the no side waste policy and exemption scheme will assist the Council with the aim of achieving statutory recycling targets set by the Welsh Government

### **Risk Management**

27. Failure to implement the recommendations will see the Council at risk of not meeting its recycling targets which would result in financial penalties. Those households not taking part in recycling need to be persuaded to do so.

## **Consultation**

28. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

## **Recommendations**

29. Members approve the following policy decisions:
30. As an interim measure to be introduced in April 2016, black bag / wheeled bin waste collections should be restricted to one 140 litre wheeled bin plus one black bag per household (in areas on the wheeled bin service) or 4 black bags per household in all other areas.
31. The Council introduce an exemption scheme for households that produce larger quantities of non-recyclable waste based, in the first instance, on a sticker scheme as described in the report while the service monitors applications for exemptions which may show an alternative method would be more appropriate e.g. a larger wheeled bin.
32. Subsequently, black bag / wheeled bin waste collections should be restricted to one 140 litre wheeled bin per household (in areas on the wheeled bin service), or 3 black bags per household in all other areas, and these restrictions should be introduced after the Recycling + Phase 3 has been completed, that is spring 2017 at the earliest.
33. Furthermore that Members approve:
34. That the scrutiny committee receive regular monitoring reports to monitor the effects of the new policy.
35. Further recycling education schemes are developed and rolled out with a view to increasing recycling in the County Borough.
36. The Council writes to the Welsh Government and the Minister for Natural Resources requesting that they continue to lobby retailers in relation to the packaging of products and to inform the Council of what discussions have been held so far.

## **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

37. To implement a no side waste policy and appropriate exemption scheme to assist the Council with the aim of achieving future recycling targets set by the Welsh Government.

## **Implementation of Decision**

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

## **Appendices**

Exemption Scheme

## **List of Background Papers**

39. Environment and Highways Cabinet Board 23 April 2015 - Waste Strategy Update Report.

## **Contact**

40. Cllr. David Williams

Chair of Environment and Highways Scrutiny Committee

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