

**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 MARCH 2020**

**REPORT ON: REVISED FREQUENCY OF COLLECTION FOR RESIDUAL WASTE**

**REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**REPORT NO: 102-2020**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the introduction of a revised frequency for residual waste collections during the financial year 2021/22 in order to progress positive environmental aims as outlined in the Waste Strategy Action Plan 2020 - 2025.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Committee is asked to note the content of this report and approve an amendment to the collection frequency for kerbside collected household residual waste from two-weekly to three-weekly, from 2021/22.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 It is estimated that the introduction of a three-weekly collection cycle for kerbside collected household residual waste will generate net annual revenue savings of £112,000 yearly, from 2021/22 onwards.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Following the introduction of the national Charter for Household Recycling and the accompanying Code of Practice in 2016, roll out of the new, compliant, service provision was completed in April 2018. Information on the services was provided to all Dundee householders at the outset of the service introduction, alongside public information sessions, website information, bin labelling and doorstep recycling adviser visits to flatted properties.
- 4.2 Since the completion of the roll out, compositional analysis of residual waste bins shows that a considerable proportion of material sent for disposal and placed by residents in general waste bins is recyclable and could easily be placed within the household recycling containers that are provided to every kerbside household. It is therefore recognised that residents must be further encouraged to recycle and minimise their waste over the long term.
- 4.3 A revised Waste Strategy and Action Plan was agreed through the Policy & Resources Committee on 18th November 2019 (372-2019) covering a five year implementation period. The Action Plan details 41 actions to be undertaken by Dundee City Council to improve waste minimisation and recycling performance, and focusses on the need to further encourage recycling by engaging with householders to support behavioural change.
- 4.4 The committee report also referenced comparisons between Dundee's household recycling performance and other councils in the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) "family group", noting that Dundee ranked 7<sup>th</sup> out of 8. The report highlighted the policies implemented by those Council's which have contributed to the higher levels of recycling being achieved. One such policy was the revision of collection frequencies for non-recyclable waste in order to encourage householders to make full use of the recycling services available to them at the kerbside. It is noted that there is a strong correlation between those authorities with

reduced frequency or reduced capacity of residual waste collections and those with recycling rates above 40%.

- 4.5 In order for Dundee to emulate the recycling success of other authorities and achieve the aims of the Action Plan, it is appropriate that similar steps are taken towards reducing residual waste capacity and therefore encouraging residents in kerbside properties to make greater use of their recycling bins. This ensures that a sustainable approach to managing this resource is introduced, which supports the re-use and increased recycling of waste materials and significantly contributes towards Dundee's wider ambitions in achieving a circular economy.
- 4.6 Also integral to the success of the waste strategy is the implementation of policies to promote a "zero tolerance" approach to contamination of recycling bins, presentation of side waste and the provision of multiple residual waste containers.
- 4.7 A further report (5-2020) seeking approval to implement a range of policies in relation to side waste, contamination and the provision of multiple waste containers in order to improve Dundee's recycling performance and promote sustainable waste management practices within the City, was agreed at the Neighbourhood Services Committee on 13th January 2020, and will be rolled out across the city over the course of the next 12 months.

## **5.0 RESIDUAL WASTE**

- 5.1 The Waste Charter Code of Practice recommends that, where a Council has adopted all essential recycling requirements, they should consider reducing the capacity for non-recyclable waste. The recommendation is a maximum of 80 litres per week per property for non-recyclable waste, achieved through either reducing the bin size or varying the frequency of collection. A number of councils in the LGBF family group have addressed the over-reliance on residual waste disposal through one of the above measures (Appendix 1).
- 5.2 A change from the current provision of a 240 litre bin per property to a smaller 140 litre bin would be potentially more disruptive to residents as well as requiring significant additional resources. Instead reducing the kerbside collection frequency from the current provision of two-weekly to three-weekly collections, allows residents an average weekly capacity for residual waste of 80 litres, without the disruption of switching containers.
- 5.3 It should be noted that there would be no change to the current frequency of a twice weekly collection of residual waste from flatted households serviced by communal Eurobins.

## **6.0 SAVINGS**

- 6.1 As households change behaviours and fully utilise the range of available recycling containers, it is anticipated that the change to the collection frequency would increase the output of bins on residual waste, paper & card and plastics & metal collections. Adjustments will be made to collection routes to compensate for the increase in workload.
- 6.2 Research from councils who have introduced similar changes to the collection frequency for residual waste collections would suggest a potential reduction in residual waste of circa 5% of the current total collected from kerbside properties. It is recognised that some of this waste will be taken directly to Household Waste Recycling Centres by householders, with the remaining waste being recycled.
- 6.3 Taking into account these additional costs and savings, it is estimated that changing the collection frequency of general waste collections would result in an annual net revenue saving of £112,000 per year. Staff savings would be achieved through a combination of non-filling of vacant posts and a reduction in the number of temporary staff employed.

6.4 It is recommended that the changes are introduced from financial year 2021/22 to allow supporting actions within the Waste Strategy and Action Plan and Waste Policies document to be fully implemented.

## **7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 This Report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. An Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

## **8.0 CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 The Council Management Team has been consulted in the preparation of this report and agree with its contents.

Elaine Zwirlein  
**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

Tony Boyle  
**Head of Environment**

26 February 2020

APPENDIX 1

|                                  | <b>Glasgow</b> | <b>Aberdeen</b> | <b>Edinburgh</b> | <b>North Lanarkshire</b> | <b>Falkirk</b> | <b>East Dunbartonshire</b> | <b>West Dunbartonshire</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>GENERAL WASTE BIN SIZE</b>    | 240 litres     | 180 litres      | 140 litres       | 240 litres               | 240 litres     | 140 litres                 | 240 litres                 |
| <b>COLLECTION FREQUENCY</b>      | 2 weekly       | 2 weekly        | 2 weekly         | 3 weekly                 | 4 weekly       | 2 weekly                   | 2 weekly                   |
| <b>AVERAGE CAPACITY PER WEEK</b> | 120 litres     | 90 litres       | 70 litres        | 80 litres                | 60 litres      | 70 litres                  | 120 litres                 |

**Committee Report No:** 102-2020

**Document Title:** Revised Frequency of Collection for Residual Waste

**Document Type:** Service

**New/Existing:** New

**Period Covered:** 01/04/2021 - 31/03/2026

**Document Description:**

The report seeks approval for amendments to the frequency of service provision for kerbside residual waste collections from 2021/22. From that time, it is proposed that the collections of residual waste from kerbside properties within the city will change from fortnightly to 3-weekly. These changes would not affect flatted properties where communal bins are used, which would continue to receive twice-weekly collections of residual waste. The report details the measures taken by the Council in recent years to implement the national Charter for Household Recycling and references the recently approved Recycling Strategy Action Plan 2020-2025 which outlines the actions to be taken forward in the next five years to improve recycling and sustainable waste management within the City.

**Intended Outcome:**

It is intended that the changes to collection frequency of residual waste from kerbside properties will result in residents recycling more of their waste as they begin to fully utilise the range of available kerbside recycling containers rather than continuing to rely on the general waste containers for the disposal of the majority of their wastes. As these changes take effect, collection routes will be reconfigured to ensure maximum efficiencies and related savings. It is estimated, based on findings from other Local Authorities within the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF), that the overall recycling rate for Dundee will increase.

**How will the proposal be monitored?:**

Tonnages of waste & recyclate collected are monitored monthly and so it will be possible to identify increases/decreases on an ongoing basis. Similarly, costs for both waste disposal and recyclate reprocessing are monitored and can be analysed to show the impacts of the changes.

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## **A. Equality and Diversity Impacts:**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Age:</b>                            | No Impact |
| <b>Disability:</b>                     | No Impact |
| <b>Gender Reassignment:</b>            | No Impact |
| <b>Marriage and Civil Partnership:</b> | No Impact |
| <b>Pregnancy and Maternity:</b>        | No Impact |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity:</b>                 | No Impact |
| <b>Religion or Belief:</b>             | No Impact |
| <b>Sex:</b>                            | No Impact |
| <b>Sexual Orientation:</b>             | No Impact |

### **Equality and diversity Implications:**

There are no equality and diversity implications as a result of this service change - the service change has no financial implications and all citizens in Dundee in receipt of kerbside waste & recycling collection services will be affected equally by the change and no single protected characteristic group will be disproportionately affected. Residents of flatted properties who share communal bins will not be affected by this service change as their collection frequencies remain unchanged.

### **Proposed Mitigating Actions:**

No mitigating actions are required.

### **Is the proposal subject to a full EQIA? : No**

There are no equality and diversity implications as a result of this service change - the service change has no financial implications and all citizens in Dundee in receipt of kerbside waste & recycling collection services will be affected equally by the change and no single protected characteristic group will be disproportionately affected.

## **B. Fairness and Poverty Impacts:**

### **Geography**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Strathmartine (Ardler, St Mary's and Kirkton):</b>        | No Impact |
| <b>Lochee(Lochee/Beechwood, Charleston and Menzieshill):</b> | No Impact |
| <b>Coldside(Hilltown, Fairmuir and Coldside):</b>            | No Impact |
| <b>Maryfield(Stobswell and City Centre):</b>                 | No Impact |
| <b>North East(Whitfield, Fintry and Mill O' Mains):</b>      | No Impact |
| <b>East End(Mid Craigie, Linlathen and Douglas):</b>         | No Impact |

**The Ferry:** No Impact

**West End:** No Impact

### **Household Group**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Lone Parent Families:</b>                             | No Impact |
| <b>Greater Number of children and/or Young Children:</b> | No Impact |
| <b>Pensioners - Single/Couple:</b>                       | No Impact |
| <b>Single female households with children:</b>           | No Impact |
| <b>Unskilled workers or unemployed:</b>                  | No Impact |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Serious and enduring mental health problems:</b> | No Impact |
| <b>Homeless:</b>                                    | No Impact |
| <b>Drug and/or alcohol problems:</b>                | No Impact |
| <b>Offenders and Ex-offenders:</b>                  | No Impact |
| <b>Looked after children and care leavers:</b>      | No Impact |
| <b>Carers:</b>                                      | No Impact |

**Significant Impact**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Employment:</b>                                  | No Impact |
| <b>Education and Skills:</b>                        | No Impact |
| <b>Benefit Advice/Income Maximisation:</b>          | No Impact |
| <b>Childcare:</b>                                   | No Impact |
| <b>Affordability and Accessibility of services:</b> | No Impact |

**Fairness and Poverty Implications:**

There are no direct fairness and poverty implications as a result of this service change - the service change has no financial implications and all citizens in Dundee in receipt of kerbside waste & recycling collection services will be affected equally by the change and no single protected characteristic group will be disproportionately affected. Residents of flatted properties who share communal bins will not be affected in any way by this service change as their collection frequencies remain unchanged.

Whilst the reduction in collection frequency of the residual waste will reduce the available capacity of the general waste bin for kerbside residents, these residents will have access to the full range of kerbside recycling services, providing them with significant capacity for recyclate disposal.

**Proposed Mitigating Actions:**

No mitigating actions are required although the promotion of use of recycling services which accompanies the frequency change will assist in conveying the message to householders that by making full use of the free recycling services at their disposal to manage their wastes more effectively, they will not then be disadvantaged by the change in frequency of uplifts.

## **C. Environmental Impacts**

### **Climate Change**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Mitigating greenhouse gases:</b>               | Positive  |
| <b>Adapting to the effects of climate change:</b> | Not Known |

### **Resource Use**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Energy efficiency and consumption:</b>                          | Positive  |
| <b>Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling waste:</b> | Positive  |
| <b>Sustainable Procurement:</b>                                    | No Impact |

### **Transport**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Accessible transport provision:</b> | No Impact |
| <b>Sustainable modes of transport:</b> | No Impact |

### **Natural Environment**

|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Air, land and water quality:</b> | Positive |
| <b>Biodiversity:</b>                | Positive |
| <b>Open and green spaces:</b>       | Positive |

### **Built Environment**

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Built Heritage:</b> | No Impact |
| <b>Housing:</b>        | No Impact |

### **Is the proposal subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment**

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

### **Proposed Mitigating Actions:**

No mitigating actions are required as these are positive implications, although the householder communication materials will ensure that these messages regarding the full and comprehensive use of all recycling services rather than a continued reliance on general waste disposal for all wastes remain key.

### **Environmental Implications:**

The change in frequency of collections will reduce the number of vehicle trips made by the Council in collecting general waste - particularly when combined with the implementation of the no side waste policy. Fewer vehicle trips will result in a drop in emissions from those vehicles as well as an increase in usage of all recycling bins as a result of the drop in available general waste capacity. Research from councils who have introduced similar changes to the collection frequency for residual waste collections would suggest a potential reduction in residual waste of circa 5% of the current total collected from kerbside properties. It is recognised that some of this waste will be taken directly to Household Waste Recycling Centres by householders, with the remaining waste being recycled.

Extensive compositional analyses will be arranged to identify those recyclable materials which continue to be disposed of within general waste containers from kerbside households and this information will be used to help target communications to households more effectively, enabling the necessary behavioural change.



## **D. Corporate Risk Impacts**

### **Corporate Risk Implications:**

There are risks associated with the subject matter of this report which depart from the norm of Council activity but having undertaken analysis of the upside and downside risks of the activity there is a clear benefit to the Council or its citizens in undertaking the activity in the manner proposed.

### **Corporate Risk Mitigating Actions:**

The driver for the change is the recently-approved Waste & Recycling Strategy & Action Plan 2020 – 2025 which identifies the actions required to facilitate behavioural change in order to drive up recycling to a rate comparable with the rest of the LGBF Family Group. Furthermore, the national Code of Practice recommends that, where a Council has adopted all essential recycling requirements, they should consider reducing the capacity for non-recyclable waste. The recommendation is a maximum of 80 litres per week per property for non-recyclable waste, achieved through either reducing the bin size or varying the frequency of collection. A number of councils in the LGBF family group have addressed the over-reliance on residual waste disposal through one of the above measures and hence the benefits of undertaking the change outweigh the risks identified.