

<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Environment and Community Services: Geoff Field Executive Member for Environment : Councillor Dennis McCabe
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive - 1 September 2020.
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<b>Subject:</b>	Fortnightly Residual Refuse Collections
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**Summary**

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
That Executive consider the report on Fortnightly Residual Refuse Collections and approve: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposal to consult on the move to Alternate Weekly (Fortnightly) Refuse Collections.</li> <li>2. That the results of the consultation be presented to Full Executive for consideration in November 2020.</li> </ol>

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Key decision:</b>	<b>Confidential:</b>	<b>Is the report urgent?<sup>1</sup></b>
Decision	Non-key as decision relates to consultation	No	No

<b>Contribution to delivery of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan</b>		
<b>Business Imperatives</b>	<b>Physical Regeneration</b>	<b>Social Regeneration</b>
This proposal will contribute a £322K saving to the authority and therefore assist in contributing toward the 2021/22 £396K saving requirements as part of the 3:1 Change Programme ECS18. Additionally, it will support the Councils Green Strategy to ensure Middlesbrough Council is net carbon neutral by 2030.	The Proposal does not directly impact on the Councils Physical Regeneration strategic objectives. However, encouraging our residents to manage their waste responsibly and improving recycling rates has a positive impact on the local environment and adds support to the councils Green strategy	It supports the Empower agenda.

<sup>1</sup> Remove for non-Executive reports

## Ward(s) affected

The proposal impacts across all wards

### What is the purpose of this report?

1. Middlesbrough is one of the few Authorities that continues to collect residual waste on a weekly basis. Nationally, less than 13% of authorities collect their waste weekly. In respect of the North east, as can be seen below, Middlesbrough is one of only two areas that still has weekly residual waste collections.

#### North East:

- Durham Council – Fortnightly
- South Tyneside Council – Fortnightly
- North Tyneside Council – Fortnightly
- Newcastle Council – Fortnightly
- Gateshead Council – Fortnightly
- Northumberland Council – Fortnightly
- Sunderland Council - Fortnightly

#### Tees Valley:

- Redcar Council – Fortnightly
- Hartlepool Council – Fortnightly
- Darlington Council – Fortnightly
- Stockton Council – Weekly
- Middlesbrough Council – Weekly

2. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to consult on a proposed move to fortnightly residual waste collections. However, areas that have waste collected through communal bins, predominately back alley areas, will continue to have waste collected weekly.
3. If this proposal was enacted it will deliver a financial saving of £322K of revenue and 200k of capital.
4. Additional benefits would include improved recycling rates, by way of residents needing to manage their waste more responsibly. This will ensure that we reduce the amount of waste sent for final disposal and reduce CO2 emissions.
5. The council has set out an ambitious vision through an environmental strategy to rise to the challenge of climate change and meet our obligations through the Government's Environment Bill. The Environment Bill aims to manage the impact of human activity on the environment, creating a more sustainable and resilient economy, and enhancing well-being and quality of life.
6. Working with partners, it is expected that the council will launch its green strategy in January of 2021. The objectives of the Green Strategy are:
  - To ensure Middlesbrough Council is net carbon neutral by 2029.
  - To ensure Middlesbrough as a town is net carbon neutral by 2039.
  - For Middlesbrough to be a lead authority on environmental issues.
7. Currently in Middlesbrough, we are recycling 33.49% of the waste produced by households. Through this proposal, we would be looking to improve our recycling performance closer to the UK Government target of 50% by 2020.

8. Below is the recycling performance of all Local Authorities in the North East:

Local Authority	Percentage HH waste sent for Reuse, Recycling or Composting 2018/19
County Durham	42.28%
Darlington Borough Council	39.81%
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	38.48%
Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Council MBC	37.87%
Northumberland	35.93%
North Tyneside Council	34.36%
<b>Middlesbrough Borough Council</b>	<b>33.49%</b>
Hartlepool Borough Council	32.50%
Gateshead MBC	31.61%
South Tyneside MBC	30.74%
Sunderland City Council	27.14%
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	26.42%

9. To enable Middlesbrough Council to achieve the target stated above we need to change some resident's behaviour towards improved recycling and review the way we collect recycling and refuse material.
10. Moving to fortnightly collection will have the following benefits.
- i. Increase in recycling performance by circa 3%.
  - ii. Annual reduction in CO2 emissions of 130,332kg, which is achieved through the reduction in vehicles being used and equates to a 25% reduction in the annual CO2 emissions for waste services
11. It is acknowledged that some larger families, or those with medical needs, may struggle with the 140ltr refuse bin therefore those households can request a larger 240 ltr bin. It is expected that up to 75% of people could be eligible for the larger 240Ltr refuse bin. This would require a capital outlay of approximately £860K.
12. To encourage recycling rates further, additional blue-lidded recycling bins and clear sacks will be available free of charge if residents / households have excess recycling and recycle correctly.
13. The proposed changes would affect all three streams of refuse collection (residual, recycling and green waste) therefore, there would need to be a significant amount of education and communication to ensure residents are fully aware of the changes and fully informed of what is required and why the changes are being made.
14. This could include, but not be restricted to:
- Dedicated Recycling Education staff
  - Vehicle side advertising
  - Recycling Roadshows
  - Social Media Updates – including short video

- Website updates
- Press Release / Editorial
- Love Middlesbrough Adverts / Editorial
- Bin Tag / Hangars
- Leaflets
- Staff Intranet Updates
- Staff Facebook
- Members Briefing

### **Why does this report require a Member decision?**

15. The proposal affects more than two wards and therefore is considered a key decision requiring approval by the Executive.

### **What decision(s) are being asked for?**

16. That Executive agrees to consultation on the proposal to move refuse collections to an alternate weekly collection system.

### **Why is this being recommended?**

17. The proposed changes will assist the services and the authority in meeting its financial savings obligations, as part of the 3:1 Change programme.
18. It supports the Councils Green Strategy and will greatly assist the council in achieving a Carbon Neutral status by 2029.

### **Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

19. The Council, following the commissioned Local Partnership works, has considered an array of options. However, these options will not deliver the required financial savings

### **Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)**

#### ***Legal***

20. There are no legal implications.

#### ***Financial***

21. The below table demonstrates the financial savings, should the proposal be accepted. The savings will be achieved by a reduction in required resources to deliver the service.

<b>Savings</b>	<b>Value £</b>
Staff	£282,000.00
Vehicles (fuel)	£40,000.00
<b>Total Saving (Year 1)</b>	<b>£322,000.00</b>
<b>Capital Outlay</b>	£0.00

## **Policy Framework**

22. The report sets out a proposal in accordance with the Council's approach to the delivery of efficient services.

## **Equality and Diversity**

23. An Impact Assessment has been carried out and there are no areas of concern as assisted collections for residents will continue.

## **Risk**

24. If the proposal is not approved, then the service will not be able to deliver a £322K saving in respect of revenue and 200k in respect of capital.
25. Current collection frequencies and tonnages are not sustainable and retract from the councils Green Strategy, The Environment Bill and Government Recycling Targets. The service must adopt an efficient and therefore more environmentally friendly position. We must improve our recycling rates and change resident's behaviours towards refuse and recycling and review the way we collect recycling and refuse.

## **Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)**

26. A three week online consultation is to take place to inform the residents and receive feedback.
27. A Service review will be undertaken to re-address the balances of required resources, which will lead to the loss of x12 FTE's. As part of the review a route/round optimisation exercise will be undertaken to realign/balance the working collection rounds
28. A detailed Communication, Marketing and Education campaign will be undertaken following Executive approval of this proposal.

## **Appendices**

29. Equality impact assessment.

## **Background papers**

- 30.

<b>Body</b>	<b>Report title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Local Partnerships	<b>Waste and recycling collection service options modelling</b>	July 2018