

<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Environment and Community Services: Geoff Field Executive Member for Environment: Cllr Dennis McCabe
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive – 24 November 2020
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<b>Subject:</b>	Residual Waste Collections
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**Summary**

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
That Executive approve the proposal to move to Alternate Weekly (Fortnightly) Residual waste collections. This follows the Waste public consultation questionnaire, which was completed on 31 October 2020.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent? <sup>1</sup>
Decision	Yes, impacts two or more wards	No	No

Contribution to delivery of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
This proposal supports the empower agenda.	Encouraging more our residents to manage their waste responsibly and improving recycling rates has a positive impact on the local environment & adds support to the councils Green strategy	.This proposal would assist, in part, the 3:1 Change programme (ECS 18) savings of £740K, by delivering a saving of £322K

<b>Ward(s) affected</b>
The proposal impacts across all wards

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

## What is the purpose of this report?

1. To update the executive on the results of the consultation around the introduction of fortnightly collection for residual waste.
2. To seek executive approval for the movement to fortnightly collection of residual waste from April 2021.

## Why does this report require a Member decision?

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

## Report Background

4. 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. In spring of 2021 the council will be asked to adopt a Green Strategy that will enable it to hit its strategic objectives that:
  - 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.
5. How the council deals with its waste is a significant part of the council's proposals around its green strategy.
6. Currently in Middlesbrough, we are recycling 33.49% of the waste produced by households.
7. 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, Middlesbrough is one of only two areas that still has weekly residual waste collections.
8. Through this proposal, we would be looking to improve our recycling performance closer to the UK Government target of 50% by 2020.
9. Below is the current 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%

10. To enable Middlesbrough Council to achieve the targets stated above we need to change resident's behaviours/attitudes towards residual waste and recycling and review the way in which they manage their waste streams and also how the council collects the recycling and residual waste.

11. In September 2020 it was outlined to the executive that moving residual waste collection to fortnightly collections would have the following environmental benefits.

- i. This will aid improved recycling rates by 3%.
- ii. Reduce the amount of residual waste sent for final disposal.
- iii. There would be an annual reduction in CO2 emissions of 152,700kg and this is achieved through the reduction in vehicles being used and equates to a service 30% reduction in the annual CO2 emissions.
- iv. There would be an annual reduction of 57,000 litres of fuel consumption
- v. Assist in achieving the required Change programme revenue savings of £322K along-side capital savings.

12. The Executive agreed that a consultation on the proposals for fortnightly collection of residual waste should go to public consultation. The consultation was a mix of an online consultation and paper copies being sent out to 2300 homes across Middlesbrough.

13. Of the circa 57,000 affected properties, we received a total of 3309 responses (both online and paper responses combined) which equates to 5.8% of affected properties. In respect of the Paper Copies of the 2300 issued, 596 responses were received (26%).

14. The key findings of the consultation questionnaire responses are shown below.

**Do you agree / disagree with the proposal to move to fortnightly collections:**

Strongly disagree	1,811	52.21%
Disagree	639	18.42%
Neutral	266	7.67%
Agree	363	10.46%
Strongly agree	230	6.63%

- Those who responded negatively equates to 4.3% of all affected properties

**15. If you do not agree, why is this:**

- My household would generate too much waste for the bin in a two-week period.  
1,940 55.92%
- (However of the residents who stated they were unhappy due to current bin capacity, 23% stated they would be happy if a larger 240 Ltr bin was provided).
- I am concerned that leaving waste for two weeks would be smelly / attract vermin.  
2,241 64.6%
- I would find the bin too difficult to move if it contained two weeks' worth of rubbish.  
906 26.12%
- Other 375 10.81%

16. The council believes that it can mitigate these concerns highlighted in the consultation outlined above.

17. My residual waste bin is too small.

- a. It is acknowledged that households may struggle with the 140ltr residual waste bin therefore the proposal is for larger 240ltr bins to be available on request before fortnightly collection in introduced.
- b. Larger/ additional bins above 240 ltrs for those who need them (medical needs etc)
- c. Move back to fortnightly green waste for 2021 to reduce the possible need for green waste to go into residual waste bins.
- d. Educate people about what can be recycled to ensure less is placed in residual waste bin.
- e. Households can have additional recycling bins if required. Additional blue-lidded recycling bins and clear sacks will be available free of charge if residents / households have excess recycling and recycle correctly.

Fortnightly collection will cause smells and vermin problems.

- a. If waste is containerised these problems are significantly reduced. Larger bins are available.
- b. A number of additional staff have been trained in rodent control to respond to any issues on Council / public land.
- c. As part of the communications campaign residents will be advised to double bag any food waste.
- d. We would provide advice & recipes on how to use food left overs to reduce the amount of food waste.

Too heavy to move

- a. If residents struggle moving the bins the Council does offer an assisted collection service where the crew will move the bin from an agreed point, empty and return the bin.

18. Should the executive agree to the move to fortnightly collection then a significant communication exercise would be carried out as we move towards the role out. This would include.

- Vehicle side advertising
- Recycling Roadshows (maximising recycling opportunities)
- Good practices – double bagging, squashing recycling etc..
- 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

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

19. That Executive approve the proposal to move to Alternate Weekly (Fortnightly) Residual waste Collections from April 2021. This follows the Waste public consultation questionnaire, which was completed on 31 October 2020.

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

20. The proposed changes would support the councils Green Strategy and therefore aid achieving a Carbon Neutral status by 2029. It will improve the council's current recycling rate toward the Government target of 50% by 2020. It will also embed the vision of the Council to be the lead authority on all Environmental issues. Additionally, it will assist in delivering a saving of £322K and Capital savings of £180k in line with the change Programme 3:1 (2021/22)

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

21. To change the Residual waste collection frequency to Alternate Weekly (Fortnightly) with the current in use 140 ltr wheelie bins. This is not being recommended as the Waste public consultation questionnaire (October 2020) shows a large percentage of the participants expressed anxiety with this option.

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

#### ***Legal***

22. There are no legal implications.

## **Financial**

23. 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>Revenue Savings</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff	(282,000.00)
Vehicles (fuel)	(40,000.00)
<b>Total Net Revenue Saving</b>	<b>(322,000)</b>

There will be a requirement to procure additional bins against the Capital Programme at a cost of £860,000. However, this is expected to be more than offset by savings achieved over a number of years as a result of a reduction in the number of refuse vehicles purchased.

## **Policy Framework**

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

## **Equality and Diversity**

25. An Impact Assessment has been carried out and there are no areas of concern as assisted collections for residents will continue. Provision of larger/ additional bins for those with medical and other needs has been considered

## **Risk**

26. 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.

27. The current identified Change Programme 3.1 service savings of £322,000 will not be achieved if this decision is not approved.

28. There are two factors may lead to the implementation of the this proposal being either delayed and/or being rolled out on a ward by ward basis over a number of months:

- i. Government restrictions/guidance relating to Covid 19, affecting free movement of council resources ie: Staff/resources

- ii. Brexit may have an impact on our European suppliers of Wheelie Bins, thus leading to delays with importation.

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

- 29. 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
- 30. A detailed Communication, Marketing & Education campaign will be undertaken following Executive approval of this proposal as detailed above.

### **Appendices**

- 31. Equality Impact Assessments.

### **Background papers**

- 32. Local Partnerships Waste and recycling collection service options modelling, July 2018.

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