

Decision session

5 October 2022

**Executive Member for Environment and
Climate Change**

Report of the Director of Environment, Transport and Planning

Waste Update

Summary

1. Waste Services are responsible for the collection of household waste and commercial waste across the city this report provides an update on the service in general.
2. The report also seeks decisions to change the service such as an expanded range of materials which can be collected in the recycling streams.

Recommendations

3. The Executive Member for Environment is recommended to:
 - i. Approve the change to the list of materials that are collected to include foil and other plastics as soon as possible.

Reason: To ensure that materials that are currently recycled continue to be and increase recycling within the city

Background

4. In June 2021 the Executive agreed to:
 - **Extra Garden Waste Collections**
Extend the garden waste season by one month to run each year from beginning of March to end of November starting in March 2022.
 - **New Refuse Collection Vehicles**
Purchase a recycling fleet of twin bodied vehicles for recycling.

- **Easier Recycling**

The separating equipment available at Harewood Whin meant residents could now present glass, cans and plastics in the same box and only paper and card kept separated.

- **Routing and Rounding Efficiency**

To commence a routing and rounding exercise to ensure the collections are as efficient as possible and bring a report back to the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change.

- **Bags to Bins**

To review the next phase of the bags to bins policy (wheeled bins rather than black bags) and bring this to future decision sessions of the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change and review if these properties could receive a green waste collection.

5. This report provides an update on the above and seeks decisions about implementation of some of additional items that the service have been working on. The report also updates on progress of some of the items listed above.

Completed Items

6. The 2 extra garden waste collections for every property started in March 2022. The garden waste service commenced on Monday 7 March 2022 and this resulted in a more phased service introduction where garden waste tonnages gradually increased over the first two rounds of collection as opposed to a 'big bang' that used to happen at the start of April. In March 2022, all garden waste collections were completed on schedule. It should be noted that the presentation of bins was high but that tonnages were not excessive. This resulted in a smoother introduction into the service when compared with previous years when collection started in April.
7. Over the past couple of years the service has benefited from significant investment and undergone a vehicle replacement programme. This has seen the introduction of two electric waste vehicles into the service which primarily work on our commercial waste rounds which primarily work in the cities clean air zone. The service has also deployed, over the past 15 months, fourteen new 26 tonne narrow chassis vehicles and eight new 26 tonne split compartment vehicles for recycling which are used on our domestic waste rounds.

8. The service continues to assess the operational performance of the electric vehicles and at this stage we are not recommending any further purchases of electric waste vehicles. In addition, the remaining vehicles we need to consider replacements for are our hard to access fleet and there are currently no options for electric vehicles of this size on the market.
9. The separating equipment now available at Harewood Whin means that residents can now present glass, cans and plastics in the same box and only paper and card kept separated. This information has been communicated to residents and the Council's website and social media has been updated to reflect this development.

Additional Recycling

10. In addition to the principles agreed by Executive the opportunity has arisen to collect additional materials from the doorstep.
11. The city has benefited from a charity collecting foil collections by the charity Snappy, however this is coming to an end.
12. The service has been working with its recycling partners to try to increase the amount of the materials accepted at the kerbside (e.g. foil, additional types of plastics such as yoghurt pots). This will hopefully maximise the amount of material that is recycled and ensure that the high quality of recycling delivered by York's residents is maintained.
13. It is proposed that messages on this are communicated with residents through Our City and developments of the Council's website. This will ensure that residents are aware of the expanded range of items that can be presented and accepted in kerbside recycling boxes. In conjunction with this, communications and literature will also be delivered to the operational Waste Service so collections crews are briefed on the revised items that can be accepted.

Updates on Ongoing Projects

14. Work is continuing on a routing and rounding exercise to ensure the waste collection service is as efficient as possible. Work is also being undertaken on the next phase of the bags to bins policy (wheeled bins rather than black bags) and the review to judge if these properties could receive a green waste collection. A review of bring sites is also underway. It is proposed that a separate report will be brought back in the future to the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change.

15. The service plan to undertake a review of its commercial waste operation. The review will need to focus on the current profitability of the service and assess the opportunities presented as part of the Government's Waste and Resources Strategy. Part of this work will need to focus on how access can be minimised or removed altogether and protecting the visual amenity of the city centre of waste presented for collection when 9 to 5 businesses close (e.g. bags left out overnight etc). It is proposed that a separate report will be brought back in the future to the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change.

Council Plan

16. The decisions made here contribute towards the objectives of the Council Plan
 - Well-paid jobs and an inclusive economy
 - A greener and cleaner city
 - Creating homes and world class infrastructure

Implications

17. Financial

The changes to the list of materials collected will have minimal financial impact. There may be a positive effect on income received from sale of recyclate.

18. Legal

As a unitary authority the Council is obliged by law to provide domestic waste collections to households and is responsible for its disposal this is laid out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Current EU and UK laws are driving local authorities to meet higher recycling and composting targets.

Any potential changes to current contracts for service will need to be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

19. Equalities

The Council recognises its Public Sector Equality Duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (to have due regard to the

need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it in the exercise of a public authority's functions

The impact of the proposals on protected characteristics has been considered as follows:

- Age – Neutral;
- Disability – Neutral;
- Gender – Neutral;
- Gender reassignment – Neutral;
- Marriage and civil partnership– Neutral;
- Pregnancy and maternity – Neutral;
- Race – Neutral;
- Religion and belief – Neutral;
- Sexual orientation – Neutral;
- Other socio-economic groups including :
 - Carer - Neutral (see Disability);
 - Low income groups – Neutral;
 - Veterans, Armed Forces Community– Neutral.

Risk Management

20. The key risk is ensuring any changes are clearly communicated to the public and therefore detailed communications will be prepared and agreed.

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Report
Approved



Date 27/9/2022

Specialist Officers

Finance

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Wards

Affected: All wards

All

For further information please contact the author of the report