



PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	14 MARCH 2019
REPORT OF THE:	DELIVERY & FRONTLINE SERVICES LEAD BECKIE BENNETT
TITLE OF REPORT:	KERBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICE – ADDITIONAL FUNDING PROPOSALS TO INCREASE RECYCLING
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report recommends a number of funding proposals to enable the development and delivery of the current kerbside recycling service with sufficient capacity to manage increased levels of recycling across the district which are forecast as a direct consequence of a campaign to raise awareness of what can be recycled now.
- 1.2 The recommendations also propose changes to the current household waste collection policy to provide boxes instead of bags for paper and cardboard to ensure improved safe working procedures and to provide residents with additional boxes for recycling upon request.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Elected Members approve the following proposals:
- (i) The procurement of one additional recycling vehicle to provide operational resilience for planned maintenance and cover and to provide additional potential capacity to enable the further development of options to increase the current recycling service offered to residents and businesses
 - (ii) An increase in the revenue budget of £100,000 per year to cover the lease costs and anticipated associated increased operating costs of one additional recycling vehicle including resources*
 - (iii) A capital budget totalling £100,000 for the procurement of 25,000 blue boxes (with 44 litre capacity) for paper and cardboard collections following a risk assessment for the kerbside collection service to ensure safe manual handling working procedures (£75,000) and for the refurbishment of all mini recycling centres (£25,000)
 - (iv) To revise the current household waste collection policy to provide boxes for all recycling materials, removing the use of bags for paper and cardboard to ensure safe working procedures and to provide additional boxes upon request

- (v) To endorse the development and delivery of a proactive campaign to raise awareness of the current kerbside recycling collection service provided to all residents and approve one-off additional expenditure of £20,000 in 19/20 through the use of reserves.
- (vi) That officers continue to assess the potential impacts for Ryedale District Council of the planned changes with the new DEFRA Resources and Waste Strategy in particular the proposed introduction of food waste collection and to submit further reports to members as details become available to allow officers to undertake the necessary preparatory work for possible future delivery subject to member approval.

** this figure only covers the cost of operational resilience for planned maintenance and cover and a forecast for two additional members of staff on the basis that recycling increases as a consequence of a proactive campaign of to raise awareness of what can be recycled now as part of the kerbside recycling collection service. It is possible that a further decision for additional revenue budget would be required if further additional resources were required to cover revised collection rounds to cope with increased capacity and demand once there is evidence to demonstrate a revised business case. The cost would be pro-rata in 19/20 circa £45,000.*

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The current revenue budget is based on 3 operational recycling vehicles operating redesigned collection rounds which are capable of collecting existing recycling tonnages and one relief vehicle for planned maintenance and cover. In order to ensure there is confidence in the ability to continue to operate the kerbside recycling service it is essential to have a 4th operational recycling vehicle with the same capacity as the new recycling vehicles to cope with the anticipated increased recycling tonnages as a direct result of a proactive campaign to raise awareness of what materials can actually be recycling now as part of the kerbside recycling collection service.
- 3.2 A new risk assessment has been undertaken for the new recycling vehicles which has been supported by a trial working in consultation with operational staff which identifies a box is required for paper and cardboard to replace the bags currently supplied to ensure a safe working procedure is in place to reduce the risk from manual handling.
- 3.3 The recommendations also support the motion to Council on 28 June 2018 to increase recycling across Ryedale.
- 3.4 It is important to note that the proposed recommendations can be implemented during 2019/20 and do not address any of the proposed changes included in the new Resources and Waste Strategy published by DEFRA in December 2018. At this stage, there are many unknowns and work will continue to enable details of the potential impacts, options and cost implications to be presented for consideration by the Council to inform other decision making to further increase recycling performance in Ryedale.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 There is a significant risk of service failure due to lack of capacity with 3 operational recycling vehicles and the inability to complete the new collection rounds as it is inevitable that an awareness campaign to increase recycling which will have a positive impact and generate additional tonnages of recyclable materials. The recycling service affects 26,000 customers every fortnight therefore any service disruption will have a negative impact on the reputation of the Council and will place unacceptable pressure on the operational staff to complete their daily collection rounds.
- 4.2 A failure to ensure safe working procedures are in place presents a significant health and safety risk.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 This report relates to the following Council priorities; managing the environment of Ryedale and making the best use of resources to ensure maximum benefit for all customers and communities.
- 5.2 A series of staff meetings and consultation with Unison has taken place to inform the risk assessment for the new recycling collection service and the feedback has been very positive in support of the recommendation to replace bags with boxes to ensure safe working procedures and the health and safety of staff.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 On 28 June 2018 a motion to Council was referred to Policy and Resources Committee which called to action an increase in recycling performance within a 2 year period and an awareness campaign to encourage more recycling (Minute Number 21).
- 6.2 As part of the T2020 efficiency programme Streetscene Operations redesigned the refuse and recycling collections into area based rounds based on historical tonnage levels and the new rounds reduced the recycling vehicle fleet by one operational vehicle (from 4 operational recycling vehicles to 3) to achieve revenue savings in the region of £150,000. Three new recycling vehicle with increased capacity were procured to enable the implementation of the new rounds and deliver the revenue savings.
- 6.3 The original plan was to introduce the new rounds during 2018 however due to pressure on resource levels experienced as a result of difficulties recruiting together with technical problems with the new recycling vehicles the implementation has been postponed.
- 6.4 The new resources and waste strategy published by DEFRA in December 2018 also became another important consideration in terms of the potential impact of the planned changes to refuse and recycling collections affecting the entire district.
- 6.5 Officers have confidence in predicting recycling levels will increase through a campaign to promote the materials which residents can recycle now as part of the current kerbside recycling service however without a 4th operational recycling vehicle there is little confidence that Streetscene Operational Teams will be able to ensure the successful implementation of the new recycling rounds.

7.0 REPORT

- 7.1 Following the motion to Council to increase recycling and raise awareness across the district it is possible to implement changes in the short term to enable the development and delivery of the current kerbside recycling service to ensure there is sufficient capacity to manage increased levels of recycling. The changes can be implemented during 2019/20 and the proposals will require additional funding,
- 7.2 To ensure there is sufficient capacity in the number of operational recycling vehicles to cope with increased recycling tonnages there is a requirement to increase the fleet by one recycling vehicle. The additional recycling vehicle will provide operational resilience for planned maintenance and cover together with extra capacity to enable the development of further options to increase the recycling service offered to businesses. In the longer term, the new recycling vehicles also offer flexibility if there

are changes to the legislation affecting recycling collections following the consultations planned as part of delivering the new resources and waste strategy.

- 7.3 There is a lead time of around 7 months for the delivery of a new recycling vehicle. Therefore if the recommendation is approved the development and delivery of a proactive campaign to raise awareness of the range of recyclable materials currently collected as part of the kerbside collection service will be planned around implementing the new rounds once the 4th operational vehicle is delivered.
- 7.4 A new risk assessment for the new recycling vehicles has highlighted the need for an important change to the current household waste collection policy to provide boxes instead of bags for paper and cardboard to ensure improved safe working procedures and the health and safety of staff.
- 7.5 Another proposal to increase recycling is to change the current household waste collection policy and provide residents with additional boxes for recycling upon request rather than limit the number of boxes provided.
- 7.6 Officers have confidence in predicting recycling levels will increase through a campaign to promote the materials which residents can already recycle as part of the current kerbside recycling service as it is many years since any direct communication with every household has taken place. It is difficult to predict tonnage increases however there is certainty based on the current collection levels that there will not be the capacity to cope with increased tonnages as the 3 operational vehicles are full to capacity now.
- 7.7 It is also recommended that all mini recycling centres are refurbished as part of the Council's commitment to increasing recycling to improve the look and feel to positively promote recycling and to encourage residents to recycle as many materials as possible in addition to the kerbside collection service.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The following implications have been identified:

a) Financial

- Additional revenue budget commitment totalling £100,000 per year to cover the lease costs and anticipated associated increased operating costs of one additional recycling vehicle including resources. In 19/20 the cost would be pro-rata and is estimated at £45,000. *This figure only covers the cost of operational resilience for planned maintenance and cover and a forecast for two additional members of staff on the basis that recycling increases as a consequence of a proactive campaign to raise awareness of what can be recycled now as part of the kerbside recycling collection service. It is possible that a further decision for additional revenue budget would be required if further additional resources were required to cover revised collection rounds to cope with increased capacity and demand which will be evidenced by a revised business case once further modelling has been undertaken*
- A capital budget totalling £100,000 (25,000 blue boxes (44 litre) at a cost of £75,000 and £25,000 for mini recycling centre refurbishment)
- One off expenditure of £20,000 in 19/20 from reserves for the development and delivery of a proactive campaign

b) Legal

The Council has a legal duty to ensure the health and safety of employees in the workplace.

c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)

The recommendation to replace bags with boxes for paper and cardboard is an important action following a new risk assessment for the new recycling vehicles to improve safe working procedures and reduce the risk of manual handling to ensure the health and safety of staff working on the kerbside recycling collection service.

7.0 NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 If the recommendations are approved by the Council the proposals will be implemented during 2019/20 as the first phase to increase recycling in Ryedale and a proactive campaign to raise awareness across the district will also be developed and delivered.
- 7.2 In addition, a longer term strategy will also be required once all the outcomes for the current work streams (new resources and waste strategy and NYCC modelling of various collection systems for North Yorkshire) and associated cost implications are understood. Elected members will be kept fully informed of progress as further details become available.

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Background Papers:

Previous reports to Policy and Resources Committee 15 November 2018 & 7 February 2019