

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2010
 title: CHARGING FOR SUPPLY OF WHEELED BINS TO DOMESTIC PROPERTIES
 submitted by: JOHN C HEAP - DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek the views of this Committee on introducing a policy of making a charge for the supply of new or replacement wheeled bins to domestic properties, and
- 1.2 If so, what those charges might be and how they could be applied.
- 1.3 Relevance to the Council's aims and ambitions
 - Mission Statement & Vision shared by Local Strategic Partnership
 - An area with an exceptional environment and quality of life for all; sustained by vital and vibrant market towns and villages acting as thriving service centres meeting the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.
 - Council Objectives
 - We aim to be a well-managed Council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs.
 - Ensure access to services is available to all.
 - Treat everyone equally.
 - Council Priorities
 - None.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In July 2008 work was completed on extending the 3 stream waste collection service to all parts of the Borough with 97% of properties now using either 2 or 3 wheeled bins for their waste and materials for recycling.
- 2.2 The total cost of providing all the wheeled bins when making the change from black sacks to wheeled bins was £800,000.00. The wheeled bins are anticipated to have a life expectancy of around 10 years based on experience from other Councils who have operated the system much longer than ourselves. Whilst we have already replaced a number of wheeled bins that have been damaged or stolen the rate of replacement is likely to start to increase within the next 12-24 months.
- 2.3 Other Councils have introduced charges either for replacement or for providing wheeled bins to new properties or both in some cases. Experience where this has happened has shown that the number of requests for replacement wheeled bins has dropped dramatically after charges have been introduced with no negative effects on services or fly tipping.

3. ISSUES

- 3.1 There is currently a policy and procedure in place to cover the free of charge replacement of wheeled bins reported as stolen to the Police. A protocol has been agreed with the Police as to how such reports are handled.
- 3.2 Where wheeled bins are damaged as a result of the collection operation itself again they are replaced free of charge. Should the wheeled bin be damaged by the householder then they are expected to pay for a replacement.
- 3.3 There are now funds in place in the 5 year capital programme to buy a number of wheeled bins each year from now on. This year £20,000.00 bought 1200 wheeled bins of different sizes and colours. In each of the following four years £15,000.00 is available for new wheeled bins.
- 3.4 Most other Districts in Lancashire either have already or are in the process of considering the introduction of charging for the supply of wheeled bins in various circumstances. Any income generated would go to off set the cost that will have been incurred in buying them
- 3.5 It is becoming custom and practice elsewhere to require developers of new properties to provide a set of wheeled bins for each new house. This is generally being introduced through a condition on any planning approval. Developers can either source the wheeled bins themselves to our standard or acquire them from the Council at an annually set fixed price. Even where planning approvals have already been given it would still be possible to start charging for the provision of new bins from a given date. A new estate of 50 houses would cost the Council around £2,500.00 to provide each house with 3 new wheeled bins.
- 3.6 Should the course of action outlined in this report be taken forward it ought to be understood that the underlying intention would be to reduce the net expenditure of acquiring new wheeled bins and the cost of their delivery to each property. In addition as experience elsewhere shows the approach is likely to reduce the demand for replacement bins by encouraging residents to take more care of and responsibility for the wheeled bins already provided.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications: -

Resources

- A move to introduce a scheme of charging for new and replacement wheeled bins will help reduce the net expenditure of acquiring them.

Technical, Environmental & Legal

- There are no specific technical, environmental or legal issues arising out of the report at this stage.

Political

- There are no specific political issues arising out of this report.

Reputation

- Whilst there may well be some resistance to a policy of charging for new and replacement wheeled bins that could affect the Council's reputation, in these challenging times financially for the Council difficult decisions that might not be taken at other times could become necessary.

5. RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Agree to explore further the introduction of a policy of charging for the supply of wheeled bins to residential properties and
- 5.2 Invite a Working Group comprising the Chairman of this Committee along with two other members to look further into this matter and report back to the next meeting of this Committee with its recommendations.

JOHN C HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Background Papers - None

For further information please contact John Heap on 01200 414461.