

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No 6

meeting date: TUESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 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 the findings and recommendations of the Working Group set up to explore the possibility of introducing a policy of making a charge for the supply of new or replacement wheeled bins to domestic properties.
- 1.2 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 A report was submitted to the last meeting of this Committee in September 2010, seeking the views of this Committee on introducing a policy in respect to making a charge for the supply of new or replacement wheeled bins to domestic properties.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Whilst we have already replaced a number of wheeled bins that have been damaged or stolen the rate of replacement is likely to increase year on year. Added to this is the anticipated growth in new build properties and the increasing replacements where householders have moved taking their bins with them.
- 2.4 Members were advised on the current policies and procedures in place where wheeled bins are stolen and/or damaged and the funding in place through the 5 year capital programme to buy a number of wheeled bins each year from now on.

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- 2.5 It was also reported that 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.
- 2.6 Committee resolved to explore further the introduction of a policy of charging for the supply of wheeled bins to residential properties. It was also resolved that the Chair of this Committee along with Councillors Alcock and Brunskill, form part of a Working Group to look into this issues and report back to the next meeting with its recommendations.

3. ISSUES

- 3.1 The Working Group met on 6th October 2010 to consider issues such as;
- 3.1.1 Should the charge be for the wheeled bin in which case ownership will then be transferred to the householder or should the charge cover administration and delivery in which case the bin is still Council property?
- 3.1.2 Who do we charge in relation to new build properties? As previously reported it is becoming custom and practice elsewhere to require developers of new properties to provide a set of wheeled bins for each new house. Most Councils do rely on the developer taking a positive approach to this request, however as there are no legal requirements the onus would eventually fall on the householder/buyer.
- 3.1.3 Under what circumstances do we charge?
- a) New build where the property will require a wheeled bin for each waste stream. The Working Group has taken into account the target for new build houses by March 2020 and the changes in legislation that may see an increase rather than decrease in this number.
 - b) Movers into pre-built property where the previous owner/tenant has taken the bins away with them. The Councils records show that other than new build this category has the highest demand for replacement bins. The cost per year will solely exhaust the stock of replacement bins.
 - c) Never had a bin, although from our records the majority of requests are for a wheeled bin for green waste.
 - d) Switch to wheeled bins from the lilac sack arrangement.
 - e) Bins reported stolen. As previously reported 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.
 - f) Damaged wheeled bins. Again the current policy is where wheeled bins are damaged as a result of the collection operation itself they are replaced free of charge. Should the wheeled bin be damaged whilst in the householders care either by accident or deliberately then the householder is expected to pay for a replacement.
- 3.1.4 Should we impose a charge for a replacement bin for each waste stream? The Working Group did consider whether imposing a standard charge or reduced charge for recycling containers may reduce demand for bins leading to householders disposing of their recycle through the residual waste stream. This can be controlled

in part by randomly checking the residual bin for contamination during collection process as we do with the blue and green bins.

3.1.5 How can the Council influence developers and social landlords to give more consideration to the provision of wheeled bins which would help them to be regarded as fixtures to the property? Suggested options were as follows;

- a) Using colleagues in the Planning and Development Services to provide developers detailed information on the size of wheeled bins and collection vehicles to ensure sufficient access is allowed for storage and movement. This can be done by producing guidance notes and placing information on the Councils web site to ensure that these issues are raised at an early stage.
- b) Write to all estate agents, solicitors and social landlords within the Ribble Valley to advise them that this Council has provided wheeled bins to each domestic property and that the bins should be left at the property when tenants move. We would suggest therefore that wheeled bins are included as a fixture and fitting expected be left at the property otherwise the Council will charge for their replacement.

3.2 The working Group considered information provided by officers on how charges were introduced within other districts in Lancashire and statistics provided on replacement numbers of wheeled bins.

3.3 In summary the Working Group forwards the following policy for approval:

- a) That a standard charge of £90 is imposed to cover only the administration and delivery costs in providing the standard three 140 litre wheeled bins to each property. This however should be reduced to £60 where the property has no garden and therefore no green bin is required.
- b) That the standard charge is imposed on householders of new build properties and householders moving into pre-built properties.
- c) Wheeled bins are provided free of any charge where the householder has never had a bin or where they are switching to wheeled bins from the lilac sack collection system.
- d) The existing policy and procedure in place to cover the free of charge replacement of wheeled bins reported as stolen to the police should remain unchanged. The protocol agreed with the Police as to how such reports are handled also remains unchanged.
- e) Where wheeled bins are damaged as a result of the collection operation itself are replaced free of charge.
- f) Wheeled bins accidentally or deliberately damaged by the householder or third party a charge for replacement will be made.
- g) Householders are required to ensure that they use the appropriate containers for the disposal of their waste otherwise contaminated wheeled bins will not be emptied.
- h) Developers be made aware of the system operated in Ribble Valley for the collection of waste for recycling and disposal.
- i) Estate agents, Solicitors and Social landlords be advised on the conditions for charging for wheeled bins.
- j) The policy for charging for wheeled bins is publicised through the Council's web site and using other promotional material.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

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

Resources

- A move to introduce a scheme of imposing a standard charge to cover administrative and delivery costs for new and replacement wheeled bins will help reduce the net expenditure of acquiring them. Expenditure of £100,000 would otherwise have to be made over the next 10 years for new build properties. In addition expenditure of approximately £13,500 could be saved each year would otherwise have to be made for the replacement of wheeled bins where residents have moved home.

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 Note the report, and;
- 5.2 Approve the policies and actions set out in paragraph 3.3, and;
- 5.3 Approve the development of a guidance note for waste storage and collection for adoption by the Planning and Development Committee.



JOHN C HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Background Papers – Waste Management Files
For further information please contact John Heap on 01200 414461.