

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 12

meeting date: TUESDAY, 12 MARCH 2019
title: CURRENT PRACTICES IN REFUSE COLLECTION
submitted by: JOHN HEAP – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: ADRIAN HARPER – HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform members about the Refuse and Recycling Service offered by the Council.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – To ensure best use of council resources in the provision of refuse vehicles.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The waste and recycling collection teams cover an area of 225 square miles and provide a weekly residual waste collection service to 27,000 properties. Ribble Valley operates the only weekly residual waste collection in the county.

2.2 Most properties have their waste collected via a bin collection service. However some older properties and flats, where there is no storage area for bins, use a lilac sacks instead of bins.

2.3 Properties that use lilac sacks for waste collection are unable to recycle their waste. Fortunately there are still recycling collection points in some villages where they can take their recycle, or if not, they can take it to the Household Waste Recycling Centers at Clitheroe or Longridge.

2.4 A 140 litre burgundy bin is provided for the weekly collection of residual waste. Households, where there are 6 or more residents, may request a larger 240 litre bin if they can prove they are recycling and do everything possible to reduce the amount of waste which goes to landfill.

2.5 A 140 litre blue bin is provided for the recovery of mixed glass, cans and plastic bottles, and either a 140 or 240 litre green bin provided for garden waste. These bins are emptied on alternate weeks alongside the burgundy bin. Again Ribble Valley is the only borough council in the county not to charge for green waste collection.

2.6 White reusable sacks are provided for the fortnightly collection of mixed waste paper and cardboard which is collected by a dedicated paper collection team either on a blue or green week dependent on postcode.

2.7 The Council also offers a special collection service for household bulky waste items to be removed from properties, up to 4 items can be collected for £14.

- 2.8 The Council operates a trade waste service from over 600 businesses throughout the borough. The charge for this service is dependent on the size of bins required, the frequency of our visits and whether or not the business operates as a charity.
- 2.9 The special collection and the trade waste services are not run as a bespoke service and are designed around when resources are available.
- 2.10 The refuse and recycling materials are collected in a split bodied vehicle with a split of 2/3 and 1/3. For the majority of the time the 2/3 section is used for the bulkier residual waste and the 1/3 used for recycle. However, in the height of the summer when we collect more garden waste the crews change over and use the larger side for the garden waste.

What Happens to the Waste Once it has been Collected?

- 2.11 Once the refuse vehicle is full the collected waste is taken to the Council's Waste Transfer Station based at Salthill, Clitheroe, where it is kept in distinct silos, avoiding contamination. The waste is loaded daily into bulk haulage trailers and transported to facilities as directed by Lancashire County Council.
- General waste is currently disposed of at Whinney Hill Landfill Site in Hyndburn.
 - The co-mingled recyclable material sent to a Lancashire County Council owned and operated Material Recycling Facility (MRF). Here the materials are sorted into the separate waste types and sold direct to material markets established and operated by LCC.
 - Green waste is treated through an 'open window in vessel' composting facility within Lancashire to produce saleable compost.
 - Following collection, paper and cardboard is delivered and sold directly to a waste paper recycling merchant.

3 RISK ASSESSMENTS

- 3.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
- Resources – None.
 - Political – None
 - Reputation – The service is highly regarded so can only enhance.
 - Equality & Diversity – None.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Council's waste management services were designed specifically to suit the geographic and demographic characteristics of the borough.
- 4.2 The biennial satisfaction survey has shown consistently high levels of satisfaction amongst residents for these services.

- 4.3 The excellence of our services was even recognised by the then Secretary of State, Eric Pickles MP, as an example to be followed by the rest of the country in his published “bin bible”.
- 4.4 There is clear evidence how, over time, the Council has modified and adapted the services to meet better the changing demands of legislation and our own residents, despite the challenging context of reducing grant support from Central Government.
- 4.5 Depending on the outcome of the consultation on the Government’s proposal Waste and Resources Strategy 2019, there may be significant changes to be introduced in the coming years. The Council appears to be better placed than most of our neighbours to be able to adapt.

ADRIAN HARPER
HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

For further information please ask for Adrian Harper, extension 4523

REF: Adrian Harper Community Services 25.04.17