

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 9

meeting date: TUESDAY, 1st SEPTEMBER 2020
title: UPDATE ON WASTE PAPER COLLECTION
submitted by: JOHN HEAP – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: ADRIAN HARPER – HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide Members with an update on waste paper and card collection

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The tender for the receipt of the waste paper and card was won by Seal Recycling at Chatburn in March 2019

3 ISSUES

3.1 When Covid lockdown arrived Seal closed their doors to both the council and the general public due to their staff displaying symptoms.

3.2 This forced the council to stop collecting paper but also gave us the opportunity to redeploy the 2 crews and prioritise the main business of picking up all the residual waste and recycling from the borough. This was necessary as a number of staff self isolated with symptoms, some without symptoms and others being shielded.

3.3 During the pandemic out of a complete refuse workforce of 35 there have been between 8 and 13 staff absent at any one time. This has resulted in the council training other council staff to be loaders and ultimately employing casual loaders to make sure all the bins were collected every week.

3.4 Presently the council are in talks with Seal as there have been a number of times when the paper wagons have not been able to tip off resulting in paper going to landfill.

3.5 Officers are presently investigating the potential of collecting more paper and card from both domestic communal collection points and from businesses.

3.6 Presently businesses such as care homes, schools and some restaurants put all their paper waste out as bundles with stickers or they put it straight into their residual bins

3.7 The new paper collection service would need to be done by the smaller DAF vehicle and therefore there are implications in setting up this fortnightly paper collection service. However, the amounts which would be prevented from going to landfill would be great and the environmental impact would be both positive and noticeable.

3.8 Should the issues with Seal continue the council will be forced to terminate the contract and make other arrangements for the waste paper and card.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

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

- Resources – None identified other than officer time. If the businesses start to have their paper collected then there will be extra income for the council.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The update on the increased recycling and the associated reduction of waste going to landfill can only be considered as positive.
- Political – This will be welcomed by the public who genuinely want to recycle more.
- Reputation – This rise in the rate of recycling can only be good for the authority.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Note the report.

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For further information please ask for Adrian Harper on 01200 414523.

REF: Adrian Harper/Community Services 01.09.2020