

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 12 February 2015  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Communities  
**PORTFOLIO:** Environmental Services  
**SUBJECT:** Household Waste & Recycling Collection Policy  
**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide Members with a draft updated Household Waste Recycling and Collection Policy document for comment and endorsement.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board**

- 1) **receive and comment upon the report; and**
- 2) **approve the adoption of the updated Household Waste & Recycling Collection Policy attached as Appendix 1.**

**3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3.1 At their meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015, Members of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board received a report on the Council's Household Waste Collection Policies. Members were presented with a draft updated Policy document that had been developed following a review of the current Policy document by the Waste Management Working Party. Members were asked to comment upon and endorse the draft updated Policy. Members of the Board subsequently resolved that a report be presented to the Executive Board recommending the adoption of the draft Household Waste & Recycling Collection Policy, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 1.

**4.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

4.1 The draft updated Policy does not introduce any new policies or collection regimes. It has been reviewed to ensure that it reflects current service provision, policies or other decisions of the Council and brings up to date the previous policy to reflect innovations which have already been introduced. It reflects current practice and seeks to clarify points of ambiguity in the existing policy as well as recording minor changes in practice. All significant changes which

have already been introduced by the Council since 2011 were the subject of public consultation and involvement.

- 4.2 The Council's policies are underpinned by the provisions of waste legislation, and in particular, the Environmental Protection Act 1990. They have been developed drawing upon best practice and common approaches adopted by local authorities across the country and take into account the significant financial pressures faced by the Council. The policies seek to ensure that the Council continues to deliver its statutory waste related functions in the most cost effective and efficient manner that encourage waste prevention, an increase in recycling levels and a reduction in the amount of waste that requires costly treatment or disposal.
- 4.3 As stated above, the attached document contains no new policies or collection regimes; however, within the document there are areas of service delivery, activity or policy that have been subject to updating or clarification from the previous version. Members' attention is drawn to areas as detailed in paragraphs 4.4 to 4.9 below.

#### Alternate Bin Collection Scheme

- 4.4 The current Policy document does not reflect a decision of Halton's Full Council in 2011 to move towards alternate weekly bin collections of residual waste and recyclables, where appropriate. This decision to introduce an Alternate Bin Collection (ABC) scheme followed public consultation with members of the Halton 2000 Citizens panel. Since 2011, the ABC scheme has been introduced to areas across the borough on a phased basis with approximately 50% of properties now receiving this service. Plans are currently being finalised for the borough-wide roll-out of the ABC service to all suitable properties.
- 4.5 The updated Policy document clarifies that it is the Policy of the Council that the 'Standard Service' provided to residents will be an alternate weekly collection of household waste using wheeled bins; collecting residual waste one week, and recycling the next. Full details of the waste and recycling collection services to be delivered to those properties that are not suitable for receiving the Council's 'Standard Service' provision, which includes a combination of bag, box or small wheeled bin collections, are set out in the Policy document.
- 4.6 The Council's ABC policy places a restriction on the amount of residual waste that will be collected from households on a fortnightly basis. In consistently applying waste level restrictions arising from this policy, the amount of waste collected from households not on the ABC system, who will receive a weekly collection of residual waste, will be limited to a level equivalent to that collected on a fortnightly basis from 'ABC households'.

### Co-Mingled Collection of Recyclable Materials

- 4.7 From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015, every Waste Collection Authority must, when making arrangements for the collection of waste paper, metal, plastic or glass, ensure that those arrangements are by way of separate collection. Co-mingling of waste (i.e. putting a range of recyclables all together into one bin or box as per the Council's policy) will be permissible after 2015 where it does provide high quality recyclates or where separate collection is not practicable.
- 4.8 The Council will be required to provide evidence to support its current or proposed collections systems in order to comply with the relevant legislation and this will be the subject of a separate report to be presented to the Executive Board.

### Enforcement

- 4.9 If the Council is to be successful in keeping down the costs of dealing with household waste and ensuring that there is no detrimental impact upon local residents or their neighbourhoods arising from the collection of waste, it will require residents to manage their waste in a responsible manner and comply with the Council's policies and procedures. The Council's approach will always be to offer advice, support and guidance as the first and preferred way to ensure householders compliance; however, where this approach has failed to result in such compliance, the Council will use its powers of enforcement.
- 4.10 The draft updated Policy document includes information about the Council's powers of enforcement in relation to the waste and recycling collection services. The use of regulatory powers is not strictly relevant to this draft policy but its inclusion makes the draft policy a more useful and informative document for the public.

### Charging for Services

- 4.11 The policy document provides details of waste collection and disposal services for which a charge may be made. Charging for services allows the Council the opportunity to off-set its costs of service delivery; the charge for the collection of bulky household items being an example of where the Council has utilised such legislation. Charging traders for the receipt and disposal of commercial waste, for example at Household Waste Centres, is also an option open to waste authorities. The document clarifies that it is the policy of the Council to explore options for applying charges for waste services allowable under legislation.

### Recommendation

4.12 The updated Policy document sets out how the Council seeks to ensure that it will continue to provide high quality, cost effective services that are applied fairly and consistently to all households.

4.13 Members are asked to approve the adoption of the attached draft updated Policy which, in addition to setting out clear and robust waste collection policies, also provides information to residents on the level of service that they can expect to receive from the Council.

## 5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no new policy implications as a result of this report.

## 6.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no new financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

6.2 The Council's policies will help to keep down the costs of providing household waste collection, recycling and treatment/disposal services.

## 7.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### 7.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified.

### 7.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

### 7.3 **A Healthy Halton**

No direct impact, but the Council's Policies will continue to contribute towards improving the environment and the appearance of the borough and shall have an overall beneficial affect on well-being.

### 7.4 **A Safer Halton**

The Council is committed to dealing with environmental nuisance. The policies contained with the attached document will continue to contribute towards improving environmental standards and reducing environmental crime. This will have a positive impact upon the Safer Halton Priority, and contribute towards the 'Cleaner, Greener, Safer' agenda.

### 7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

No direct impact, but overall environmental benefits will make the borough a more attractive location for investment.

## **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 The updated Household Waste Recycling & Collection Policy document sets out clearly the services to be delivered by the Council as well as the actions required by householders in relation those services. The key risk in failing to maintain and publish an up to date Policy document is that residents may not fully understand the level of service to be provided to them and what responsibilities they have. This could lead to high levels of non-compliance with the Council's waste policies, a reduction in the effectiveness of the Council's services, increased costs, customer complaints and poor satisfaction levels amongst residents.

## **9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 The Council's Policies are not intended to have either a positive or negative impact upon equality and diversity or apply differently to any particular group. The Waste and Environmental Improvement Division will continue to invite and seek feedback on its waste collection services and policies and will respond to any suggestion of differential impact.

## **10.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

10.1 It is important that the Council's Household Waste and Recycling Collection Policies remain fit for purpose in order to support the Council in meeting its waste related and objectives, and to ensure that services continue to be delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible.

## **11.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

11.1 The Council has a wide range of options available in relation to its waste collection policies and service standards. The options available were considered by Members of the Waste Management Working Party who were tasked by the Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board to review the Council's policies and service standards relating to the collection of household waste. The work carried out by the Working Party included research into the approaches adopted by other local authorities and took into account local circumstances within Halton.

## **12.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

12.1 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

## **13.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Executive Board Report 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2011 – Household Waste Collection Policy	Municipal Building	Strategic Director, Communities
Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board Report 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2015 – Household Waste & Recycling Collection Policy	Municipal Building	Strategic Director, Communities