

**REPORT TO:** Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Communities

**PORTFOLIO:** Environmental Sustainability

**SUBJECT:** Waste Topic Group Meeting

**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a copy of the notes of a meeting of the Waste Topic Group and to make recommendations arising from the meeting in respect of the Council's charges for the collection of bulky items and the provision of new and replacement wheeled bins.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That**

- 1. members receive and comment upon the report; and**
- 2. the proposed increases in charges for the collection of bulky items and the provision of new and replacement wheeled bins, as set out in the report, be presented to the Executive Board for approval.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Waste Topic Group met on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013. (The notes of the meeting are attached as Appendix 1). At this meeting, Members considered information provided by the Divisional Manager for Waste and Environmental Improvement relating to charges for the collection of bulky items and the provision of new and replacement wheeled bins. Charging for these services is included within the Council's Household Waste Collection Policy that came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

### Charges for Wheeled Bins

3.2 Members were advised that the numbers of residents requesting replacement wheeled bins has significantly reduced since the introduction of the charge. In 2010/11 there were 2,640 requests for bins, however, this fell to 749 in 2011/12 and, based upon figures to date, will fall again to an estimated 657 requests in 2012/13.

- 3.3 It is believed that the introduction of the charge has resulted in residents taking more responsibility for their bin and has also deterred residents from contacting the Council and to request additional bins.
- 3.4 The current charge for a residual waste wheeled bin is £20. Members of the Topic Group were advised that the current charge did not cover the full costs of purchasing and delivering bins, which is circa £30. Members were also provided details of the charges made by other local authorities. Following a discussion and consideration of the information presented, Members agreed to recommend an increase in the charge for new and replacement bins to £25.00 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.

#### Charges for the Collection of Bulky Household Items

- 3.5 The table below shows Halton's current charges in comparison to the charge made by other Council's within the local region.

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Bulky Items Collection Charge - 2012/13</b>
Halton Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £15 for up-to five items</li> <li>• £30 for between six and ten items</li> </ul>
Cheshire West and Chester Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charge per unit: £15</li> <li>• Up to four units per collection</li> </ul>
Wirral Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £20 for up to 6 separate items</li> </ul>
Knowsley MBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £15 for up-to five items</li> <li>• £30 for between six and ten items</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Warrington Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £20 for up to 3 items</li> <li>• Additional items at £6.67</li> <li>• A maximum of 5 items per collection</li> </ul>

- 3.6 Halton's current charge for the collection of bulky household items is £15 for up to 5 items and a further £15 for additional items (up to a maximum of 10). Members were advised that the current charges did not cover the full costs of providing the service, which is circa £20. Following a discussion, and consideration of the information presented, Members agreed to recommend the following charges for the collection of bulky household items from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013;

- £20 for the collection of up to 3 bulky household items
- Additional items at £5.00 per item
- A maximum of 10 items per collection

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The proposed increase in charges will have a positive financial implication, in that, based upon 2012/13 requests, income from the collection of bulky items will increase by £10,205 per annum and income from the provision of new and replacement wheeled bins will increase by £3,285. The additional income received will be used to offset current spend.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no other implications as a result of this report.

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

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

No direct impact

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

No direct impact

### **7.3 A Healthy Halton**

No direct impact

### **7.4 A Safer Halton**

No direct impact

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

No direct impact

## **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 8.1 The key risks with increasing the charges for wheeled bins is that it could causes hardship to some households and that it could be deemed, in certain circumstances, the Council is imposing an unreasonable charge. This risk is mitigated by the mechanism that is in place to waive the charge for bins that have been lost or stolen in exceptional circumstances.

## **9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 9.1 The increase in charges proposed in this report is 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 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

- 10.1 Household Waste Collection Policy Report to Executive Board on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

**NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE WASTE TOPIC GROUP  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2013 AT RUNCORN TOWN HALL**

**Present : Cllr Gerrard (Chair)  
Cllr Sinnott  
Cllr Zygadllo  
Cllr Bradshaw  
J Unsworth (Divisional Manager – Waste)**

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  Cllr Thompson	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Waste Management Update</b></p> <p>1) Waste Treatment Contracts</p> <p>JU updated Members on the procurement of the Merseyside and Halton Resource Recovery Contract (RRC). JU advised that the initial stages of the evaluation of the two submissions received was nearing completion and that a decision to move forward with a proposed preferred bidder was expected to be made shortly. JU advised that whichever of the two bidders were successful, the reception point for waste would be outside of the borough.</p> <p>JU explained the background to Halton's partnership with the Merseyside Authorities.</p> <p>JU advised Members that the Council was looking for a solution to divert waste from landfill in the interim period leading up to the commencement of the RRC and officers were currently undertaking a tendering exercise.</p> <p>2) Alternate Bin Collection Scheme</p> <p>JU informed Members that the roll-out of the Alternate Bin Collection (ABC) scheme was continuing, with a further 3,000 properties being added in the coming weeks.</p> <p>JU confirmed that the ABC scheme would be introduced to all wheeled bin properties within the borough. The borough-wide roll-out will require a full reconfiguration of existing waste collection schedules and this exercise will be completed once the future reception points for residual waste is known.</p>	

		<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>3) 'No Side Waste' Policy</p> <p>JU provided Members with copies of stickers that would be used as part of the enforcement of the Council's 'no side waste' policy.</p> <p>The stickers would be placed on bins where residents had presented additional waste alongside their bins for collection, or had overfilled their wheeled bins.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>HWRC Permit Scheme</b></p> <p>JU provided Members with information showing the number of permits issued since the introduction of the Vehicle Permit Scheme.</p> <p>Members were advised that the scheme continues to operate successfully and with very few complaints.</p> <p>JU advised that whilst information was not available to show the full extent of its impact, the scheme is helping reduce levels of waste deposited at the Council's two Centres.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Scrutiny and Development of Waste Policies</b></p> <p><u>Waste Charges</u></p> <p>Following on from discussions at the previous Topic Group meeting, Members reviewed the charges for the collection of bulky items and the provision of new and replacement wheeled bins. JU circulated information to Members with regard to Halton's current charges and those for other regional local authorities.</p> <p>1) <u>Charges for New and Replacement Wheeled Bins</u></p> <p>JU advised Members of the costs to the Council of purchasing and delivering wheeled bins.</p> <p>Whilst consideration was given to maintaining the charge at the current level, Members agreed to recommend that the charge for the provision of new and replacement wheeled bins should be increased from £20 to £25. In making this recommendation, Members took into account the costs incurred by the Council, the importance of increasing income given the Council's financial difficulties and also that mechanisms are in place to deal with circumstances where a charge would impose a significant hardship on a household.</p>	

		<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>2) <u>Charges for the Collection of Bulky Household Items</u></p> <p>JU advised Members that in reviewing the charges for the collection of bulky items they should consider that the current charge did not cover the Council's costs of collection and also that the income was significantly below budgetary targets.</p> <p>JU also provided information to show that the introduction, and subsequent increase in charges, did not lead to an increase in incidents of fly-tipping in the borough.</p> <p>After discussing and fully considering the information presented, Members agreed to recommend the following charges for the collection of bulky household items;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £20 for the collection of up to 3 bulky household items</li> <li>• Additional items at £5.00 per item</li> <li>• A maximum of 10 items per collection</li> </ul>	
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Garden Waste Collections</b></p> <p>Following on from the discussion at the previous meeting of the Topic Group, JU proposed to Members that further work should be carried out with regards to examining the options and the impacts of charging for green waste collections.</p> <p>A brief discussion took place on the potential benefits and dis-benefits of charging for this service and it was agreed that the matter would be discussed further at a future meeting of the Group.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>A.O.B</b></p> <p>Councillor Gerrard asked that the Council consider the potential opportunity of providing a skip collection service. JU to investigate and report back to the Group.</p>	<b>JU</b>