

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 15th January 2018

Wards: All

Subject: Residual waste container size

Lead officer: Graeme Kane, Assistant Director of Public Space

Lead member: Cllr Ross Garrod, Cabinet Member for Street cleanliness and Parking

Contact officer: Graeme Kane, Assistant Director of Public Space

Recommendations:

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1. Wheeled bins are due to be introduced in October 2018 for residual/ general waste and for paper and card. It is now appropriate to choose the final size of the wheeled bin. Members are requested to consider the bin size options and decide on either option A or B. Option A is recommended.

	Residual/ general waste	Paper and card
Option A	180l wheeled bin	180l wheeled bin
Option B	240l wheeled bin	240l wheeled bin

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The decision to introduce wheeled bins for residual/general waste and a separate wheeled bin for paper and card was made by Cabinet in July 2016. The Cabinet are asked to confirm the size of wheeled bin to be used. The service is due to be introduced in October 2018 in order to: encourage greater recycling; keep Merton's streets cleaner; be safer for residents and operatives, and; be cost-effective.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. In accordance with the contract and previous decisions by Cabinet, service changes will be implemented for the waste and recycling services from the autumn of 2018. The introduction of alternate weekly waste and recycling collections is expected to incentivise recycling, particularly the use of the food waste service. The introduction of wheeled bins is intended to keep Merton's streets cleaner as well as providing a more cost effective and safer method of collection. The collection regime is similar to many boroughs and councils across the country, including those with the highest rates of recycling. Advice for residents is already provided on LBM's website to help residents keep their bins clean. <https://www.merton.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/changes-from-2018>
- 2.2. Plans for the service changes are being developed by Veolia in conjunction with LBM officers and the South London Waste Partnership (SLWP). The plans will include: ordering, delivering and commissioning of new vehicles; ordering and delivering of new bins; and route adjustments and day changes. A crucial work stream will be the development of clear and comprehensive communications to residents. An update on the planned service changes will be presented to the

Sustainable Communities Panel in February 2018 for their information and comment.

- 2.3. Originally the size of both wheeled bins was to be 240litres. Based on analysis of operations in other local authorities, a review of best practice and taking note of guidance from WRAP, it is recommended that both wheeled bins should be 180litres. This reduction in size is expected to: encourage food and dry recycling; reduce waste disposal tonnages and costs; and, make the bins easier for residents to store and handle. A presentation is attached in Appendix A. This outlines the issues to be considered in deciding on the appropriate size of the wheeled bin for residual waste.
- 2.4. Through informal feedback regarding the service change, residents have indicated their concern about the size of wheeled bins in relation to their properties. These views have influenced the decision to recommend a 180l wheeled bin over a larger one. By listening and responding to residents, it is hoped their concerns will be alleviated to some degree.
- 2.5. Once the new service has been introduced, residents in larger households (likely to be those with 5 or more permanent occupants) will be able to request a 240l wheeled bin for residual waste and residents who prefer a 140l wheeled bin for residual waste will have the option to request one. These alternatives will be developed further by officers during the later planning stages of the new service.

2.6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.7. Members have the choice of either option A or B.

	Residual/ general waste	Paper and card
Option A	180l wheeled bin	180l wheeled bin
Option B	240l wheeled bin	240l wheeled bin

- 2.8. The use of smaller bins as the standard sized wheeled bin is are considered to be inappropriate as it risks providing residents with insufficient capacity to safely contain and dispose of their waste. Insufficient capacity can lead to increased fly-tipping, additional visits to the Household Reuse and Recycling Centre, and the need for increased street cleansing.

2.9. **CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 2.10. No formal consultation has contributed to the creation of this report.

2.11. **FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 2.12. Revenue

- 2.13. Option A may result in reduced Capital costs but it is too early to determine at this stage. If a smaller bin (180l rather than 240l) encourages greater recycling and an overall reduction in residual/ general waste then this will have a positive effect on LBM's waste disposal costs. The scale of these changes is not yet known.

- 2.14. Capital

- 2.15. The approved Capital Programme 2017-21 contains £2.674 million in 2018/19 for the purchase of Waste Bins.

2.16. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

2.17. There are no legal or statutory implications as a result of this report.

2.18. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

2.19. There are no human rights, equalities or community cohesion implications as a result of this report.

2.20. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

2.21. There are no crime or disorder implications as a result of this report.

2.22. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

2.23. There are no risk management or health and safety implications as a result of this report.

2.24. APPENDICES - THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

2.25. Appendix A: Powerpoint presentation: "Waste/ recycling service change: Autumn 2018: Wheeled bin size".

2.26. BACKGROUND PAPERS

2.27. N/A

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