

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 23rd May 2018

Wards: ALL

Subject: Waste collection service – Proposal to switch recycling containers

Lead officer: Chris Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration

Lead member: Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness

Contact officer: Charlie Baker – Commissioning and Strategy Manager Waste and fleet Services

Reason for urgency: The Chair has approved the submission of this report as a matter of urgency, to enable a decision to be made concerning the containers to be used for each of the different waste streams, this needs to be confirmed in advance of the communications plan that is scheduled to be implemented from June

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- A. Note the proposal from the waste collections contractor, Veolia, to amend the recycling receptacle use from October when the service change commences.
 - B. Agree to delegate authority to the Director of Environment and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member to consider Veolia's proposal and amend the original use of the recycling receptacle providing this is viable and appropriate.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report summarises a proposal, recently tabled by Veolia, in which they suggest amending which container should be used to store 'Paper and Card' ready for collection and which should be used for Dry Mix Recycling (DMR) i.e. plastic, Glass, cans etc.

2 DETAILS / BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In 2016 as part of the new waste collection service, Veolia proposed retaining the current 55lt boxes for DMR and introduce a new wheelie bin for paper and card.
- 2.2. The rationale behind this proposal was to safeguard the quality of the paper, (which had a higher financial value) and allow Veolia to maximise their guaranteed income to the council from the sale of this material.
- 2.3. As a result of changing paper markets, the requirement to protect the paper and card from adverse weather is no longer as paramount and Veolia are able to commit to the guaranteed revenue income even if the material is wet.
- 2.4. As a result of this change in circumstances, Veolia has suggested that the council considers switching the use of the two recycling containers, i.e.

paper and card to now be contained in the 55ltr boxes and the DMR to be contained in the wheelie bin.

- 2.5. This proposal has been raised very recently and the Council will want to consider it carefully but make a decision in advance of the rollout of the service change planned for October. The Council want to look at a range of factors including; the financial impact, the Sutton Council experience and that of other councils, impact on street cleanliness, and the risk to the contamination of other recycling waste streams. To date this information is not fully available and we are awaiting further evidence from Veolia.
- 2.6. By delegating this decision, the Council will be able to decide whether such a change should be made without jeopardising the rollout of the service change.

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

There is no statutory duty to consult on changes to these services. The decisions has been made by Cabinet under the authority delegated to them to introduce a new waste collection service in October 2018.

4 TIMETABLE

- 4.1. A detailed communication strategy is scheduled to be considered by the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the 21st June. The containers to be used for each of the different waste streams need to be confirmed in advance of the communications plan being implemented.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Whilst we await evidence of the matters referred to in para 2.5 the Council is unable to fully assess the potential financial impact. Veolia have confirmed that there will be no detrimental impact on the guaranteed level of income from the sale of paper.
- 5.2. As this proposal simply switches the use of each container, there are no changes in the capital funding for the wheelie bins.
- 5.3. Prior to determining which solution is right for Merton a greater understanding of our waste composition needs to be assessed and a risk profile completed .
- 5.4. Please note that our mix dry recycling material is processed through our disposal contract with Viridor and as such this material is subject to different contractual requirements.

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There is no statutory duty to consult on the proposals being put forward by Veolia and there is nothing legally preventing the same bin being used for the recycled material identified in the report.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. A preliminary equalities impact assessment has been completed for these universal services. If the decision is to change the container, the assessment will be updated to reflect any changes.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None specific to this report

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. A full analysis of Veolia proposal will be undertaken and only once all risks have been assessed a fully informed decision will be made.

10 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- 10.1. None

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1. None.

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