

# Executive report

## 5 February 2010

Report of **Head of Commercial Services**

Report no 104/09

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## Wheeled Bins Policy

### ***Recommendations***

That Executive agrees the wheeled bin policy as set out in appendix 1 of the report of the Head of Commercial Services to the Executive on 5 February 2010.

### **Purpose of report**

1. To consider a policy governing the issue and use of wheeled bins relating to the new waste collection service contract.

### **Relationship with corporate plan**

2. The council has identified rising to the challenge of climate change as one of its strategic objectives. The relevant corporate priorities for this report are to:
  - minimise the waste we produce and maximise recycling
  - keep the Vale a clean place to live.

### **Background**

3. The service to collect waste and recycling from wheeled bins starts on 4 October 2010. The standard collection uses the following:
  - 240 litre wheeled bin for recycling
  - 180 litre wheeled bin for refuse
  - 23 litre caddy for food waste.

4. The council has never collected domestic waste from wheeled bins as part of its statutory duty and there are a number of different issues that may arise from their use.
5. Officers have produced a policy, attached as appendix 1, to govern the issue and use of wheeled bins, including circumstances where we will offer alternative collection arrangements. This policy is based on arrangements used in South Oxfordshire, by other authorities and reflects best practice. It has been expanded to cover:
  - collection point for emptying wheeled bins
  - side waste
  - overfilled, overweight or compacted bins and bin lids
  - stolen or missing bins
  - responsibility for bins and damage to bins
  - contaminated bins
  - numbers on bins
  - properties unsuitable for use of wheeled bins
  - assisted collections
  - large families or residents producing large amounts of waste.

## **Options**

6. The alternative to approving the report and adopting the policy would be to allow householders choice as to the type, quantity and size of bins, whether they have sacks, and choice of collection point. This would lead to less efficient collections, much greater cost, potential contractual breach by the council, cause inconsistent standards of collection, which will cause inequalities, result in greater customer complaints and possible maladministration.

## **Financial, legal and any other implications**

7. The service to provide larger recycling bins to individual residents will only take effect once all the standard size wheeled bins have been delivered and residents have had the opportunity to try them out.
8. In South Oxfordshire, four hundred households have requested a larger recycling bin, at a cost of approximately £70 per household for the larger bin and the bin exchange.
9. The new contract and wheeled bin procurement has been fully costed in the council's budget. The contract and relevant budgets rely on the adoption of a clear and unambiguous policy that is consistent with South Oxfordshire District Council's. Any significant deviation from the recommended policy is likely to require significant additional budgetary provision. Any significant deviation may also be contrary to the new Verdant contract, which could require re-negotiation and increased cost.
10. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the council is able to stipulate the type of container that will be collected as part of its statutory duty to collect waste.
11. A resident can opt out of the service and dispose of the waste themselves. A decision by the resident to not have their waste collected will not incur any refund or reduction of council tax.

## **Conclusion**

12. As the council has never collected waste and recycling from wheeled bins, officers need a clear policy to help deal with the issues arising from their use, which the attached appendix provides.

**Background papers:** None