

## ADDITIONAL BIN CRITERIA

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to specific criteria being used as the basis for a fair, transparent and consistent assessment of a household's request for additional bins.

### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will be aware that over many years various policies have been in place as to whether or not a resident could receive a second bin. A brief history is provided below for ease of reference:-
- 26.11.98 - the Compulsory Competitive Tendering Panel recommended that the existing policy of making available additional refuse bins be discontinued and that each household be limited to one bin only. (Minute 59/98).
  - 18.2.02 - the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended that residents be granted the right to have 2 wheelie bins (either 120 litres or 240 litres) provided that they pay the purchase price and collection costs (set at £200 for 3 years). Ratified by the Environmental Services Committee on 5.9.02. (Minute 398/02)
  - 20.4.04 – the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations to Council included the removal of the policy whereby a resident could purchase a second grey bin on a three-year contract. Those residents currently with a second bin would have their collection honoured until either their three-year contract finished or for those households that already had a second bin, until that one needed replacing. (Minute 194/04)
  - 27.4.04 – Council ratified the recommendations from the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee of 20.4.04, subject to the following amendment: residents should be able to request the Authority for an additional grey bin and that in the event of such requests being refused by officers, residents should have the right to have their request considered by the Appeals & Licensing Committee. (210/04)
  - 27.4.06 – the Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee recommended to discontinue collections of second wheeled bins from those households that do not meet the criteria set out in the report from September 2006, but to honour the collection for those who purchased the three year collection period. (Minute 34/06)
  - 06.6.06 – the Environmental Services Committee resolved that no changes be made with respect to collections of second wheeled bins and that the Waste Management and Recycling Sub-Committee consider the

issue of introducing a charge for second wheeled bin collections. (Minute 181/06)

- 13.3.07 – The Environmental Services Committee resolved that no changes be made to current arrangements for dealing with requests for a second wheeled bin until the waste management procurement process has been concluded. (Minute 71/07).

2.2 Therefore the current policy, whilst not automatically entitling residents to receive a second wheeled bin, does allow them to make a request for the extra bin. The criteria below have been used by officers to assess any requests for a second wheeled bin that have been submitted and this report seeks to formalise these criteria as the accepted means of assessment so that all requests are dealt with on a fair and consistent basis.

### **3 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

3.1 The above mentioned criteria which were discussed at the Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee on 27 April 2006 and then were part of the report that went to the Environmental Services Committee on 6 June 2006 are detailed below:-

- Households must have 6 or more residents (discretion for children in nappies or specific medical needs).
- Must already be recycling (kerbside and bring banks).
- Pre assessment form sent.
- Following evaluation and if the criteria are met, a site visit arranged and waste audit carried out (all materials from the residual bin are sifted to ensure any recyclables are removed. Residual waste then returned to bin and if capacity insufficient, resident qualifies for an additional 140 litre bin).
- Periodical monitoring takes place to ensure criteria continue to be met.
- If application unsuccessful at any stage, householders can appeal.

3.2 It should be noted that these criteria would be applied in respect of the residual bin only.

### **4 RECYCLING TARGETS AND WASTE MINIMISATION**

4.1 As Members are aware, this Council, along with all other Councils, has increasing Government-set targets to meet in relation to the percentage of household waste that is recycled or composted. Additionally, there are EU targets set under the Landfill Directive that require that an increasing proportion of biodegradable municipal waste be diverted from landfill over the next 15 years.

- By 2010 to reduce the biodegradable municipal waste disposed to landfill to **75%** of that produced in 1995;

- By 2013 to reduce the biodegradable municipal waste disposed to landfill to **50%** of that produced in 1995;
  - By 2020 to reduce the biodegradable municipal waste disposed to landfill to **35%** of that produced in 1995.
- 4.2 Whilst the Council's performance in this area has been increasing each year, it falls short of current and future targets and therefore we need to maximise the recycling potential within its overall waste management service.
- 4.3 Waste minimisation is also a very important factor that can have a significant impact on the Council's performance. Implementing the above criteria prioritises recycling activity amongst residents and also avoids providing residents with "over generous" receptacle capacity which would encourage increased quantities of waste to be presented for collection and disposal.
- 4.4 On this basis it is not proposed to provide any additional bins solely for the purposes of garden waste. There is no intention to place a maximum on the number of bins provided for dry recycling materials, as long as the need for this facility can be established.
- 4.5 It is also proposed that, if Members were to agree with the criteria detailed in section 3.1 of this report being used for the second bin requests, then the option for an appeal to the Appeals Committee would seem unnecessary, as a firm policy would be in place for officers to follow and on which decisions would be made.

## **5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 An effective process for assessing any second wheeled bin requests will assist the Council in maximising its recycling performance, reducing the amount of biodegradable municipal waste collected and contribute to the overall efficiency of the waste management service.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 When providing a second wheeled bin, there is not only the cost of the bin itself but also an additional collection cost per year incurred by the Council.

## **7 RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Sub Committee **RECOMMENDS**
- (1) That the criteria detailed in section 3.1 of this report be used as the basis for assessing requests for a second wheeled bin for residual waste.
  - (2) That a request for an additional bin, solely for the purposes of disposing of garden waste, shall be refused.

- (3) That there shall be no maximum on the number of bins provided for dry recycling materials, provided that the need for such facilities can be established.

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**Background Papers:-**

None.

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