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<b>Subject:</b> Waste Services Review	<b>Status:</b> For Publication
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**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Jacqui Beswick- Portfolio Holder for Housing & Environment

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<b>Comments from</b>	Section 151 Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Statutory Officers:</b>	Monitoring Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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**Key Decision:** Yes  
Forward Plan/Notice  General Exception  Special Urgency

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For Members to approve, as a basis for consultation, the draft Rochdale Borough Council Waste Management Strategy 2015 – 2020 (**Appendix 1**).
- 1.2 For Members to approve, as a basis for consultation, the draft Rochdale Borough Council Waste Collection Service Policy (**Appendix 2**).
- 1.3 For Members to approve public consultation relating to the adoption and roll-out of the proposed change to Domestic Waste Collections as detailed in the report (**Table 5.2**)

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members consider and approve, as a basis for consultation, the Waste Management Strategy for the period 2015 – 2020, which will underpin the authority's approach to its waste management activities for the next five years.
- 2.2 Members consider and approve, as a basis for consultation, the Waste Collection Policy which will contribute to the effective delivery of the proposed Waste Management Strategy.
- 2.3 For Members to agree to the commencement of public consultation on the proposed changes to the Waste Collection Service.

## 3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council has achieved an overall recycling rate of 34.5%; this is lower than the English average of 43% and significantly below the 2020 European Waste Framework Directive target of 50%.

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- 3.2 Like all Councils, RBC is facing increasing financial pressure alongside needing to consider the requirement to meet future legislation and targets.
- 3.3 These changes are required to deliver a significant reduction in collection and disposal costs in line with the proposed Waste Management Strategy.
- 3.4 The adoption of a waste collection policy is required if the service is to operate more efficiently and consistently in the future.
- 3.5 The proposed changes are expected to lead to financial savings whilst increasing customer satisfaction in the service

#### 4. BACKGROUND

##### AGMA Position

Table 1 – GMWDA Recycling Performance (Data from June 2013)

Authority	Recycling rates
Bolton	38%
Bury	45%
Manchester	39%
Oldham	37%
Rochdale	34.5%*
Salford	39%
Stockport	64%
Tameside	42%
Trafford	52%
<b>Authority Average</b>	<b>43%</b>

\*Data from unaudited end of year annual tonnage figures for 2014/15





- 4.1 The European Commission issued proposals in July 2014, which set out tighter recycling and landfill targets. They can be summarised as: -
  - Sets out ambitions to turn Europe into a zero waste economy;
  - Proposals are for binding targets for recycling, landfill and public procurement e.g.70% minimum municipal waste recycling by 2030 and by 2015 a ban on land fill of recyclable waste, and by 2030 extended to all recoverable municipal waste
  - Reduce food waste by 30% by 2025.
- 4.2 This sets some challenging interim targets:
  - 2016 translated into UK law;
  - 2020 50% reuse/ recycling target for household waste;
  - 2025 separate bio waste collection required
- 4.3 The Environmental Management Service has an in-year savings target of £1m from 2015/16. It is anticipated that changes to the future delivery of the waste management service will deliver these savings.
- 4.4 Following consultation on efficiency options relating to the collection service carried out in 2014, the service was requested by Members to carry out further work relating to the options.

4.5 This revised option now forms the recommendation for proposed changes to the Domestic Waste Collection Service outlined in this report.

**5. PROPOSED CHANGES AND CONSULTATION**






5.1 Table 5.1 below, outlines the domestic waste collection arrangements currently in place.

Table 5.1 Current Domestic Waste Collection Arrangements:

<b>Bin Type</b>	<b>Domestic/Non recyclable waste</b>	<b>Comingled Recyclate – Plastic bottles, Cans, Glass &amp; Foil</b>	<b>Pulpables- Card, Paper</b>	<b>Garden &amp; Food Waste</b>
				
<b>Collection arrangements</b>	Fortnightly to all 88,000 properties	Fortnightly to all 88,000 properties	Fortnightly to approx. 65,000 Properties	Fortnightly Opt-in to Approx. 44,000 properties
<b>Bin size (ltr)</b>	240	140 to 240	140 to 240	240

5.2 Table 5.2 below outlines the proposed changes recommended for public consultation with a target for implementation of the new service being autumn 2015.

Table 5.2 Proposed Domestic Waste Collection Arrangements:

Bin Type	Domestic/Non recyclable waste	Co-mingled – Plastic bottles, Cans, Glass & Foil	Pulpables- Card, Paper	Garden & Food	Food Waste
					
<b>Collection arrangements</b>	Three weekly	Three weekly	Three weekly	Weekly	Weekly
<b>Bin size (ltr)</b>	No change in size - 240	No change in size - 140 to 240	No change in size - 140 to 240	No change in size - 140 to 240	Weekly-new 23ltr Doorstep Caddy & 5ltr Kitchen Caddy

5.3 The Waste Management Strategy outlines the direction that Waste Services will be taking over a 5 year period to ensure that it achieves its objectives. Key strands of the strategy include

- planned changes to the operational structure of the waste collection service,
- initiatives to improve public engagement with the service,
- targeted management approach to waste and recycling performance
- plans to continually review and improve the service against best practice within the industry.

5.4 The Waste Collection Policy will underpin the waste service operation and includes clear documented guidance on the responsibilities of both the council and its residents.

It outlines protocols and procedures in relation to such issues as

- bin contamination,
- enforcement,
- bin ordering and charging,
- timing and positioning of bins at days of collection
- other details that take away any ambiguity regarding what residents can expect from our waste collection services.

5.5 Following decision from Members to consult on the proposed changes to the waste collection service and the above supporting strategy and policy at formal cabinet, Environmental Management will begin a month long consultation process that will include:

- attendance at Township meetings
- media releases
- dedicated consultation pages on the council website and intranet

- attendance at any specially requested meetings
- regular posts and tweets on social media
- regular updates for Elected Members

5.6 If Members agree these changes following formal consultation, the service will commence a sustained communications campaign that will include initiatives such as:

- BME\* community engagement,
- school incentive schemes,
- household door to door canvassing,
- community reward schemes
- production of information pages in our website
- information packs outlining the changes to the waste collection service

*\*Black, minority, ethnic*

For a more detailed overview of the communications plan see **Appendix 3**

## 6 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- 6.1 Waste Strategy adoption - There is no acceptable alternative but to adopt a long to medium term strategy which will allow members to set the guiding principles and direction of the authority in meeting its challenging targets to reduce significantly its non-recyclable waste and to contribute to meeting the council's financial savings requirements.
- 6.2 Waste Collection Policy adoption – The alternative is to continue as now with no policy document or formal guidance in place. This would not be recommended as it would lead to the continuance of ambiguity in current waste service areas for our staff and customers. An example of this is that the policy would clarify the services arrangements and charging policy for replacement bins to residents and developers. Adoption would reduce the authority's significant costs relating to missing and/or misused bins.
- 6.3 The proposed policy also puts more cost-effective alternate arrangements in place to assist residents who may have suffered a reported missed collection alongside guidance on the services intention to remove recyclable side waste presented in a responsible manner.
- 6.4 Changes to current waste collection arrangements – The failure to adopt the revised proposal in table 2 above would lead to the service being unable to meet its ongoing £1m financial savings target (2015/16 onward).

A number of waste and recycling collection options were considered in the original waste service review and consulted upon. The new proposal is now being submitted for consultation based on work undertaken with GMWDA, other GM authorities and taking into account the experience of other Councils who have already adopted similar approaches. This proposal provides the best chance of the Council being able to deliver the financial savings required from a reduction in waste disposal (levy) costs and at the same time improve its recycling rates. .

In-depth research of local and national best practice has shown that this new proposed model is best placed to enable the council to meet its future challenges and aspirations in the medium and long term. This model is also expected to enable the authority to not only keep-pace with other GMWDA authorities but also to improve our standing in the medium term.

## **7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 As outlined earlier in the report, the Environmental Management Service has a target to deliver net savings on waste collection and disposal of £1m from 2015/16. There is also an expectation that the council will further reduce its share of the waste disposal costs by matching the average year on year performance improvements of the other GMWDA member authorities.
- 7.2 The proposed changes to the current waste collection arrangements detailed in this report will require up-front investment. Capital budgets totalling £1.299M have been allocated in 2015/16 to support the purchase of caddies and bins. It is currently anticipated that £800k of this budget will need to be re-phased into 2016/17.
- 7.3 The proposed collection service will also require a revenue investment of approximately £440k in 2015/16. This will cover the cost of staffing an additional vehicle, publicity and caddy liners.
- 7.4 The main impact of the extended review is that recycling rates are likely to be held at around 39% in 2015/16. It is anticipated that this will result in a significant budget pressure of approximately £1.168m.
- 7.5 It is anticipated that the recycling rate will increase to around 45% in 2016/17, which it is anticipated will be sufficient to deliver the £1m savings target. However, by instigating the proposed changes to the waste collection service RBC will avoid an estimated £627k of additional waste disposal costs for the year 2015/16.

## **8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The Service believe that the adoption of the new waste strategy and waste policy constitute very few changes to current practice, but seeks only to provide formal arrangements to Council Members, employees and members of the public.
- 8.2 The service should follow the council's guidance on consultation when consulting on the proposal to mitigate any risk of legal challenge.

## **9 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 None directly other than amendments to waste policy which seek to clarify arrangements for operatives around the collection of recyclable side waste.

## **10. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 10.1 Contributes to Place, Health & Wellbeing Economy aspirations of the authority.

## **11. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Further delays in adopting the recommendations will lead to further increased and unmitigated costs to the service budget areas and in turn the councils current and any future target achievement.

## 12. EQUALITIES IMPACTS

### 12.1 Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment

There are no (*significant*) workforce equality issues arising from this report

### 12.2 Equality/Community Impact Assessment

Attached as **Appendix 3**