

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET18 February 2016Report by Director of EnvironmentUPDATE TO KERBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICE IMPROVEMENT AND THE CHARTER
FOR HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING AND CODE OF PRACTICE**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of the report is to inform Members of changes to the proposal for kerbside collections contained in the report submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet on 20 August 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Cabinet is asked to:-
- (a) support the new proposal for kerbside collections, acknowledging that in doing so, East Renfrewshire Council's kerbside collection method would not meet all the requirements of the Code of Practice, in the first instance. A decision will be required in future years, and as funding becomes available, as to how the Council will meet the requirements of the Code of Practice; and
 - (b) note that the proposal would be subject to the Council's consideration of its General Fund Capital Programme in March 2016.

BACKGROUND

3. The Cabinet at its meeting on 20 August 2015 supported a recommendation with regard to a move towards a new method of providing a kerbside recycling service.

4. However, since that time a national Charter for Household Recycling and a supporting Code of Practice have been published.

5. The Charter for Household Recycling and Code of Practice was developed by the Zero Waste Task Group, convened by COSLA. It has been a collaborative process involving the Scottish Government, Zero Waste Scotland and the Waste Practitioners' Network, which represents officers from all Scottish local authorities. Its aim is to create more consistent collection services across the country with a focus on increasing participation and recovery of high quality materials in support of a circular economy.

6. The Charter and Code of Practice were approved by Council Leaders on 27 November 2015. Councils are asked to consider signing the Charter and accepting its terms, including a commitment to implement the Code of Practice.

REPORT

7. The principle of the Charter and Code of Practice is generally welcomed and indeed the majority of collection requirements and policies are reasonable and prudent.

8. However, one of the essential requirements of the Code of Practice is to provide a separate collection of glass. The proposed new collection service does not meet this key requirement and due consideration has been given to how any new service could do so, taking into account other key factors which influenced the previously proposed kerbside collection service, i.e. ease of use by residents, a move away from the use of boxes and/or sacks and the need to deliver financial savings.

9. Any method of delivering segregated glass collections at kerbside would mean that financial savings would not be delivered and would likely be unpopular to a majority of residents at this time, e.g. a fifth bin or container for glass or remove glass from the kerbside and offer an enhanced service at local recycling points (which is allowed in terms of the Code of Practice subject to specific conditions).

10. The previously approved proposal for kerbside collections does not meet another key requirement of the Code of Practice with regard to volumes of storage capacity for each material. The table below shows the **minimum** capacities as follows:

Paper/cardboard	40 litres per week
Metals/plastics/cartons	70 litres per week
Glass	20 litres per week

11. A maximum of 80 litres per week of residual waste is recommended as a more than adequate capacity for a majority of households, provided they are using recycling services.

12. In taking the recommended capacities into account, a new method of collection is proposed in order to meet this requirement of the Code of Practice as follows:

*New Kerbside Recycling Service	
1 x 240l bin for food and garden waste	Weekly
1 x 240l bin for residual waste	Once every 3 weeks
1 x 240l bin for paper and cardboard	Once every 3 weeks
1 x 240l bin for glass, plastics, metals, and cartons	Once every 3 weeks

*See diagrammatic representation in Appendix 1

13. This collection method would preclude the Council from meeting all the terms of the Charter and Code of Practice at this point in time but would lay a foundation should the Council consider it financially viable to introduce separate glass collections in the future.

14. Failure to sign up to the Charter would preclude East Renfrewshire Council from attaining any future funding for kerbside collection services from Zero Waste Scotland. The Scottish Government have committed future funding to support the implementation of the Code of Practice, but the level of funding is unknown at this time. However, the funding will be shared amongst all local authorities that opt to become signatories of the Charter. It is worthwhile to note that there is likely to be a phased implementation across Scotland over a number of years.

15. As with the previously approved proposal residents would be restricted to one bin for each material stream. This would mean that the brown bin for garden and food waste would be restricted to one bin per household in much the same way as general waste to landfill is currently restricted. This is necessary for logistical and cost purposes. Excess garden waste can be taken to household waste recycling centres.

16. There is a risk that limiting garden and food waste collection to one bin per household will have a detrimental effect on recycling performance. However, it is hoped that this can be mitigated through clear communications and promotion of household waste recycling centres.

17. Under all options residents who cannot accept more wheeled bins may retain their boxes and bags but the frequency of collection will be the same as neighbouring residents who have wheeled bins.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

18. The implementation of the option outlined above requires as a minimum the capital purchase of approximately 60,000 new 240 litre bins at an approximate cost of £1.35 million. The current grey bin for residual waste would be retained.

19. There is an estimated eventual recurring annual saving of £300,000 achieved through the diversion of material from disposal when the scheme is fully rolled out.

20. Collecting more materials, expanding the range of materials to include cardboard and Tetrapaks, and maintaining a degree of quality via a three-stream recycling collection offers the best way to manage costs within the service.

21. It is unlikely that Zero Waste Scotland funding would be applicable because East Renfrewshire Council would fail to meet one of the key requirements of the Code of Practice (i.e. to offer a separate collection of glass, in the first instance).

CONSULTATION

22. Subject to consideration of and approval of the capital expenditure proposal by the Council in March 2016 it is intended that a full communications and consultation campaign will be carried out.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

23. The Waste Strategy Team has worked with other local authorities, who have provided guidance and information with respect to the proposal. In particular, East Dunbartonshire Council have implemented a collection system which delivers a mixed glass, cans and plastics recycling bin collection service to households. South Lanarkshire Council are in the process of rolling out a new collection service which includes this material mix. A number of Scottish local authorities have moved to 3 weekly collections of residual waste including Falkirk Council, East Ayrshire Council and Fife Council.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

24. There are no implications associated with this report in terms of property, legal, IT, and equalities. The financial implications are explained within the report.

CONCLUSIONS

25. Acceptance of the new Charter and Code of Practice will potentially mean significant changes to kerbside collections for residents within East Renfrewshire Council including:

- 3-weekly collections of residual waste (80 litres per week in comparison to the current 120 litres per week)
- 3-weekly collections of recyclates (A mix of paper, card, food and beverage cartons, and glass, metal and plastic containers).
- A limit of one container per material collected

26. However, the full requirements of the Code of Practice would not be met in the first instance due to non-provision of a separate glass collection.

27. For this reason, it is unlikely that East Renfrewshire Council would receive funding from Zero Waste Scotland for implementation costs.

28. Benefits of the new collection service include:

- Replacement of boxes and bags with wheeled bins
- The addition of cardboard and Tetrapaks to paper collections
- Potential significant savings from diversion of residual waste

29. East Renfrewshire Council is supportive of the Scottish Government and COSLA's agenda to create more consistent collection services across the country with a focus on increasing participation and recovery of high quality materials in support of a circular economy. However, the revenue cost implications of operating a separate glass collection are not viable at this time. This does not prevent the Council signing up to the ethos of the Charter and Code of Practice, and other Council's are in a similar position.

RECOMMENDATIONS

30. The Cabinet is asked to:-

- (a) support the new proposal for kerbside collections, acknowledging that in doing so, East Renfrewshire Council's kerbside collection method would not meet all the requirements of the Code of Practice, in the first instance. A decision will be required in future years, and as funding becomes available, as to how the Council will meet the requirements of the Code of Practice; and
- (b) note that the proposal would be subject to the Council's consideration of its General Fund Capital Programme in March 2016.

Director of Environment

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Reports to Cabinet:

20 August 2015, Kerbside Recycling Service Improvement- Options Report.
23 June 2011, Cleansing and Recycling- Managed Weekly Collections Progress.
16 May 2013, Update on Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.













Other documents:

Charter for Household Recycling and Code of Practice (SG, COSLA, SOLACE, ZWS); *Kerbside Recycling Service Improvement Options Appraisal* (ERC); *Cleansing and Waste Strategy financial calculations- supporting documents* (ERC); *Local Authority Kerbside Good Practice Guide (kerbside waste and recycling collections)* published September 2012 (ZWS); *Duty of Care: A Code of Practice* published October 2012 (SG); *Scotland's Zero Waste Plan* issued June 2010 (SG); *Safeguarding Scotland's Resources: A Programme for the Efficient Use of Our Materials* issued October 2013 (SG); *Recyclate Quality Action Plan* published online December 2013 (SG).

KEY WORDS: A report outlining the new national Charter for Recycling and Code of Practice and its implications on the proposal for the recently approved kerbside recycling collection service improvement.

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Appendix 1 - The 3 WEEKLY OPTION

Week 1		Week 2		Week 3		Week 4		Week 5		Week 6	
 240 Ltr.	Food	 240 Ltr.	Food	 240 Ltr.	Food	 240 Ltr.	Food	 240 Ltr.	Food	 240 Ltr.	Food
	Garden		Garden		Garden		Garden		Garden		Garden
 240 Ltr.	Landfill	 240 Ltr.	Paper	 240 Ltr.	Plastics	 240 Ltr.	Landfill	 240 Ltr.	Paper	 240 Ltr.	Plastics
			Cardboard		Glass				Cardboard		Glass
			Cans		Cans				Cans		

Features:

- Food and garden waste collected weekly (240 litres)*
- Paper and cardboard collected every 3 weeks (240 litres)*
- Plastics, glass and cans collected every 3 weeks (240 litres)*
- General/landfill waste collected every 3 week (240 litres)*

***240 LITRES IS THE SIZE OF BROWN BIN CURRENTLY USED FOR GARDEN AND FOOD WASTE**

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