



COUNCIL - 27TH JANUARY 2015

**SUBJECT: COLLECTION OF DRY RECYCLABLES - WASTE FRAMEWORK
DIRECTIVE AND WASTE (ENGLAND & WALES) REGULATIONS 2011**

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND S.151 OFFICER

- 1.1 The attached report was considered by Cabinet on 17th December 2014. The report provides an update on legislative changes that will come into effect on 1st January 2015 and seeks authorisation to continue with existing collection arrangements until further evidence is available on which to base long term future decisions.
- 1.2 The Separate Collection requirements of the Regulations comes into force on 1st January 2015. From this date Waste Collection Authorities will be required to provide separate collections of glass, metals, plastics and paper where doing so is 'Necessary' - to ensure waste undergoes recovery operations to facilitate improved recovery (the Necessity Test) and that it is 'Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practicable' (TEEP) to do so. The important part of the new legislation is the necessity test. If separate collection would increase the quantity or quality of material collected, this would generally indicate that it meets the necessity test and change from a co-mingled to a separate collection would be necessary.
- 1.3 Officers have reviewed the evidence available to date (customer satisfaction, high level costings, performance and limited end destination comparisons), which indicates that the Authority does not need to change its collection regime at present. However, there are significant gaps in the evidence base at present i.e. at least 6 months worth of MRF regulations data, WRAP's work on the end destinations of materials and WG not having published its final guidance and this information will be crucial in making a fully informed, robust decision on future service provision. It is important for Council to note that WG issued the statutory guidance to Welsh authorities after Cabinet considered the report on 17th December (copy attached). This new guidance sets out a number of principles relating to the collection of recyclables and is intended to inform decision making by waste collection authorities. In particular it states that, "It is important to recognise that the 2011 Waste Regulations do not prohibit the use of all co-mingled collections of the four waste materials from 2015. Rather they establish separate collection as the default position, and set out the conditions under which the relevant establishments or undertakings can deviate from that default position"
- 1.4 The guidance continues to focus on a robust evidence base and sites examples of evidence and bases for decision making such as, council papers, business cases for investment, tender specifications, assessment of current and historical collection methods, information about materials recovery facility performance, information about relevant technological changes, and economic and environmental assessments of options. Given this focus on evidence based decision making within the guidance it remains the case that there are still key pieces of evidence that the authority is still not in possession of and robust decision making would not be possible without this additional information.
- 1.5 Following consideration and discussion at the Cabinet meeting it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the officer's report be approved subject to reports on the Authority's recycling levels being presented to Scrutiny and Cabinet on a quarterly basis in

order that Members can continue to monitor the situation. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report: -

1. The existing method of kerbside collection of dry recyclables be continued subject to further review in 2015 when additional evidence/information becomes available;
2. Officers of the Authority agree to continue to participate in the study being undertaken by the Welsh Government to gather further end destination evidence and to participate in the WG exercise to model various collection scenarios;
3. Reports on the Authority's recycling levels be presented to Scrutiny and Cabinet on a quarterly basis in order that Members can continue to monitor the situation.

1.5 Members are asked to consider the recommendations.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Welsh Government - Statutory Guidance on the Separate Collection of Waste Paper, Metal, Plastic and Glass

Appendix 2 Report to Special Cabinet dated 17th December 2014.