

North Yorkshire Council

Environment Executive Member

14 June 2024

Review of Future Household Waste Collection Options

Report of the Assistant Director – Environmental Services and Climate Change

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform the Executive Member for Managing Our Environment of options to review future household waste collections.
- 1.2 To seek approval to undertake a public consultation exercise regarding the future of household waste collections.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 North Yorkshire Council as a Unitary Authority has a duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to arrange for both the collection and disposal of household waste. Under the previous two tiers of local government these duties were split between the seven District and Borough Councils as Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs), and North Yorkshire County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA).
- 2.2 Whilst residual waste collections are broadly the same across the county and garden waste collections have been harmonised, the way that recycling is collected still varies considerably.
- 2.3 Government published the 'Resources and Waste Strategy' in 2018 and Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) consulted on the 'Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England' in 2019 and 2021. In response to these consultations, the Environment Act 2021 introduced a requirement for all WCAs (including Unitary Authorities) in England to arrange for a standard set of materials.

3.0 The Report

- 3.1 In North Yorkshire, Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) has brought together seven waste collection services that all provide collections differently. Good progress has been made on integrating and rationalising services to achieve service consistency, for example, the Selby Urbaser service provision transferred in house on 1 April 2024, and a consistent approach to garden and bulky waste charging has been agreed.
- 3.2 LGR provides an opportunity to harmonise waste recycling and disposal services into a single model. The council has been working with WRAP and environmental consultancy Eunomia to evaluate the existing approaches and how best to harmonise services.

- 3.3 Alongside the technical evaluation, the service has been engaging with elected Council Members to get feedback on the proposals under consideration. Notably, a Member working group with representation from each political party was established with the relative benefits and disbenefits of each option considered and debated. Additionally, Officers have engaged with all Council Members through a “Member Seminar” to understand general views on the proposed public consultation.
- 3.4 Approval is sought to consult residents and staff in summer 2024. Consultation responses will provide an insight into residents recycling behaviours, and the results will be analysed based on the service currently provided in the locality as well as by household size and property type. The current main types of collection service are described in terms of value for money, contamination, and carbon reduction. Residents are asked to comment on the Council’s preferred option, namely two wheelie bins for waste recycling, for the majority of housing types; one for glass, cans and plastic, and one for paper and card, with alternate fortnightly collections.
- 3.5 A separate piece of work will be carried out to engage with and obtain the views of our commercial waste customers.

4.0 Equalities

- 4.1 The report seeks a decision to undertake a consultation exercise. The equalities implications of implementing proposals, including a review of any properties that will require additional assistance with collections or adaptations to the standard service, will be considered should a decision be sought to implement changes to policies and practices.

5.0 Finance

- 5.1 The financial implications of implementing proposals will be considered and included in a future report, should a decision be sought to implement changes to policies and practices. The consultation is being run by the NYC Comms team and any costs e.g. printing, will be covered within existing budgets. There will also be a cost in relation to staff time which will be met from existing budgets.

6.0 Legal

- 6.1 North Yorkshire Council as a Unitary Authority has a duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to arrange for the collection and disposal of household waste, and to comply with the waste provisions contained within the Environment Act 2021 and future secondary legislation and statutory guidance.
- 6.2 The final decision on any future service change will be subject to Executive making a recommendation to Full Council as will be a policy change for North Yorkshire Council.

7.0 Climate Change

- 7.1 The report seeks a decision to undertake a consultation exercise. The climate change implications of implementing proposals will be considered should a decision be sought to implement changes to policies and practices.

8.0 Policy Implications

- 8.1 The report seeks a decision to undertake a consultation exercise. The policy implications of implementing proposals will be considered should a decision be sought to implement changes to policies and practices.

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1 To inform the Executive Member for Managing Our Environment of options to review future household waste collections
- 9.2 To seek approval to undertake a public consultation exercise regarding the future of household waste collections.

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: N/A

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