

**To: City Executive Board**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

**Report of: Head of Direct Services**

**Title of Report: Domestic waste and recycling collection policy change for sites with communal bin storage and Houses in Multiple Occupation**

## Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report:** To revise our policy in respect of waste collection from flats with a view to reduce waste and increase recycling from domestic communal flat sites, maisonettes, and houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).

**Key decision:** No

**Executive lead member:** Councillor John Tanner

**Recommendation(s):**

To approve the following proposed change to the Council's waste and recycling collection policy. *"At all relevant sites, the Council shall seek to collect no greater quantity of waste from domestic refuse bins than from domestic recycling bins."*

## **Background**

1. In October 2010 this authority introduced a revised fortnightly commingled waste collection service across the city. Each property was given a blue and green bin. Properties with difficult access were given the option to have boxes or bags. At the time this did not include flats
2. In April 2011 we contacted those management agents and landlords who had not yet converted to the alternating weekly collection scheme. In order to encourage them to separate residual waste from mixed recyclables they were given the option of either preferably purchasing additional recycling containers and having alternating weekly collection service or pay for a weekly landfill only collection service from a commercial waste contractor. Many sites have subsequently converted to fortnightly collection and recyclable waste separation and the purpose of the policy change is to enable us to enforce compliance at the remaining sites.
3. Since the implementation of the new services we have seen a significant increase in domestic recycling rates. If we are to make further significant

increases to our recycling percentage from the privately run flat sites we need to ensure additional recycling provision is made. We propose to increase recycling facilities available at all privately owned flats to at least 50%.

4. In 2012 Council Members took the decision to support the increase of recycling facilities for all council owned flats to 50%. Additional containers were provided and an intensive education campaign has been delivered. As the council is in effect the managing agents for its own properties we have taken a lead in being a responsible landlord in providing these improved facilities.
5. The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) Joint Waste Management Strategy Policy recommends that Oxford City Council (OCC) increase participation rates for flats recycling.

### **Objectives**

6. Increase the provision of facilities to increase recycling and reduce overall waste from all privately owned flats, HMOs and Housing Association flats and maisonettes.
7. Offset the rising cost of waste collection from recycling credits.
8. Contribute to diverting waste from landfill in order to meet our OWP financial arrangements quota and reduce the impact of biodegradable waste on climate change.

### **Proposed Change**

9. The council would change its current policy of making standard domestic waste collections from domestic communal storage areas across the city. In future it is proposed that the policy will be *"At all relevant sites, the Council shall seek to collect no greater quantity of waste from domestic refuse bins than from domestic recycling bins."*
10. Although the policy refers to quantity of waste and recycling, at least in the short term, the Council would implement the policy on the capacity of containers basis.
11. Once the policy change is agreed, a 12 months consultation and implementation process would be carried out. All interested parties will be approached before any enforcement of the policy change. This will allow the managing agents and landlords to budget for the moderate increase in costs, brought about by the policy change. During this 12 month consultation period we will be running a pilot scheme with several of the larger more proactive management agents to ensure that we have identified any issues or concerns before the full scheme is introduced.
12. Where necessary landlords and agents will be required to purchase appropriate bins that meet the specification of Oxford City Council and provide refuse and recycling hard-standing, sheds or fenced areas. The City Council has already done this with its own flats and maisonettes.

## **Climate change / Environmental impact**

13. The provision of improved recycling facilities will increase the recycling opportunities, diverting waste from landfill complying with the Council's Cleaner Greener Policy. The reduction in waste going to landfill will have a reduced carbon footprint impact for waste collection and disposal.

### **Enforcement Procedure**

14. It is proposed that a response date is included in the first communication. If a response is not received by that date we will then give formal notice of our intention to only remove equal volumes of landfill and recycling. This intention will then be implemented after the 12 month implementation period.

15. Any side waste would be addressed by issuing a notice under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA). This would be followed by an inspection of the site. If these actions result in excess waste being presented outside of the containers the council will serve a Section 92a notice under the EPA 1990. This will require the landowner to clear the site at regular intervals as described within the notice. Non-compliance with the notice would lead to further legal action.

### **Financial Implications**

16. The policy change has no adverse financial implications to the council as the council's owned HRA sites already meet these criteria or are in the process of being provided. All privately run flat sites would fund the cost of any additional recycling containers required.

### **Risk register**

17. Attached.

### **Equalities impact**

18. This report has been discussed with the Council's Equalities & Diversity Business Partner. The initial impact assessment screening review did not indicate any areas of potential disadvantage and it is accordingly felt that the policy change does not have major implications in equalities terms. However, the Council is following best practice by implementing a 12 month Pilot Scheme where any emerging equalities issues can be highlighted. At this point a further impact assessment would then be undertaken

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**List of background papers:**

The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) Joint Waste Management Strategy Policy 7

**Version number: 4**