

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
Cabinet	18 March 2015

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SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
Waste Regulations 2011 (TEEP)	Neighbourhoods and Streetscene	Mark Gaffney	

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 require local authorities to consider their waste collections against the waste hierarchy and to determine whether there is a need to collect glass, metal, paper and plastic separately, to achieve high quality recycling and facilitate or improve recovery.

The regulations require Local Authorities to collect these materials separately from 1st January 2015 where it is technically, environmentally and economically practicable (TEEP) to do so. This is the TEEP test. The Council has concluded the procurement process for a new waste partner and it is now timely to consider the service against the regulations.

The Council currently collects comingled (mixed) glass, metals and plastics in a 240 litre wheeled bin, and paper and card separately in a recycling box. The assessment of the service has demonstrated that it is compliant with the regulations as all materials except glass is of high quality recycling. Glass had to undergo the full TEEP test due to it being of low quality through breakage during collection and processing at the waste disposal facility. However, the TEEP test demonstrated that the method of collection is compliant with the regulations.

The waste service supports all of the council's corporate priorities but especially Clean, Green and Safe.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To approve the Council's current collection system for recycled materials as being compliant with the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

DETAILS AND REASONING

Background

The EU Waste Framework Directive provides the legislative framework for the collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste. The directive requires all member states to take the necessary measures to ensure waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering health or causing harm to the environment. The UK Government transposed the Waste Framework Directive into UK law through the Waste Regulations 2011, which came into force on 1st October 2012.

The regulations state that from 1st January 2015, Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) must collect waste paper, metal, plastic and glass separately where it is technically, environmentally and economically practicable to do so (TEEP).

The Council is a WCA and Lancashire County Council is the statutory Waste Disposal Authority (WDA). Waste disposal facilities are provided by LCC at the Farington Waste site. These arrangements do influence the Council's TEEP test.

The WRAP Route Map

The Waste Recycling and Action Programme (WRAP) has produced a route map and guidance to help WCAs in completing the assessment. The Council has been working with other Lancashire Authorities through the Lancashire Waste Partnership on the approach to the TEEP test and the use of the WRAP Route Map to demonstrate compliance with the regulations.

The Waste Hierarchy

The regulations require local authorities to apply the waste hierarchy to the waste they are responsible for and to determine whether they are required to collect glass, metal, paper and plastic separately.

Compliance with the Regulations

An assessment of the Council's collection system was made against the requirements of the regulations including assessing the various waste streams and materials against the waste hierarchy.

The regulations also require the Council to undertake a Necessity test. This test is to validate if separate collections of glass, metal, paper and plastics are necessary to provide material of an appropriate quality for recycling markets. Currently paper and card are collected separately with plastic, metal and glass collected comingled in a wheeled bin. The test demonstrated that for paper, card, plastics and metals the quantity and quality of the material was high and changes to how the Council collect these materials are not required.

If a material does not pass the Necessity test, then a TEEP test is required. Glass did need to undergo the TEEP test as 46% of glass collected goes for reprocessing into road aggregate which is not a high quality closed loop method of recycling. Closed loop recycling is when the material is recycled back to its original use (such as glass being re-melted), whereas open loop is when it is recycled for a different use (such as glass being used as an aggregate). The end markets for the materials the Council collects are decided by Lancashire County Council. The TEEP test demonstrated it is technically practicable to provide a separate kerbside collection to residents for glass, although issues over health and safety for collection crews and making the best use of existing recycling containers would need to be considered. However, the environmental assessment indicated that transport emissions would outweigh the carbon saved through not having to sort comingled material at the waste disposal facility and reducing reprocessing emissions due to more glass being suitable for closed loop recycling i.e. re-melt. Further to this the economic test demonstrated that the additional costs for introducing a separate kerbside collection for glass would be cost prohibitive.

The assessment has established that a separate collection of glass at the kerbside is not environmentally or economically practicable. Therefore the current kerbside collection method is permitted under the regulations.

Full Technical Report

A full and detailed technical report covering the assessment has been produced and is available.

Conclusion

Paper and card are already collected separately from other materials, and this material is of a high quantity and quality and goes for closed loop recycling. Separate collections of metals and plastics

are unlikely to increase the quantity and quality of materials for recycling. Over 90% of these materials go for closed loop recycling.

The Necessity test identified that a separate collection of glass is likely to increase the proportion that could go for re-melt or closed loop recycling. Glass was therefore subject to the TEEP test. This proved that a separate kerbside collection of glass is not environmentally or economically practical.

The assessment has demonstrated that the Council's waste collection system complies with the regulations.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these.

FINANCIAL	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
LEGAL	The legal issues are covered in the body of the report.
RISK	There are no risk issues to consider as a result of the assessment. However, ongoing assessment will be required of the Council's compliance with the regulations.
THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY	There are no impacts on equality as a result of this report. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken of the Council's waste service.

OTHER (see below)	
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<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Full Technical Report of the Assessment