WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE ADVERSE WEATHER PLAN

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval for the adoption of the Adverse Weather Plan attached at Appendix A for the collection of domestic kerbside waste and recycling in inclement weather conditions. The plan is intended primarily to address the issues associated with disruption caused by snow and ice but equally it can be applied in other situations such as flooding.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives

2.1 The provision of an Adverse Weather Plan will ensure that arrangements are in place to tackle the problem of waste and recycling collections in adverse weather conditions and links in to the Corporate Plan under Priority 6 “Working Together to Make Best Use of Our Resources”.

3. Background

3.1 Members are aware that the waste and recycling collection service is carried out by Kier, the Council’s waste contractors. Adverse weather conditions present the waste and recycling services with particular difficulties and risks which the average road user would not face during his daily commute. The types and sizes of the vehicles combined with the general topography and varying road layouts across the County Borough pose significant difficulties during periods of inclement and adverse weather when snow and/or ice are present on the roads and footways. Such weather can present an unacceptable health and safety hazard to the operating crews and in such conditions it is not unusual for collections to be suspended or cancelled.

However, there has been no consistent approach to tackling the problem and confusing messages have been relayed to the general public, leading to missed collections and refuse and recycling being left at the kerbside for long periods of time.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

4.1 The Adverse Weather Plan sets out how the Council’s waste collection services will operate during periods of inclement or adverse weather, where due to the prevailing conditions, it is considered impractical or unsafe to collect waste and recycling throughout the County Borough.
4.2 It sets out the procedures that will be followed by the Council and the Council’s waste services partner Kier, in arriving at any decisions with regard to the suspension or continuation of domestic refuse and recycling services during the period over which inclement weather conditions are expected or have occurred.

4.3 The plan includes a Communication Strategy advising the public as to any disruption to the collection that they can expect over the period where snow and or ice is present on the highway and footways.

4.4 The Operational Plan sets out the measures that will be taken following disruption of the waste and recycling collections. Principally, waste and recycling collections that have been suspended due to inclement weather will be undertaken on the next scheduled collection day. This approach will provide the communications team and the public with a clear unambiguous message on the Councils waste and recycling collection services over the period of any inclement weather.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 There is no effect from the introduction of this proposal on Policy Framework and Procedural Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 The Council’s Equalities Impact Assessment Toolkit has been utilised which indicates that the proposal would have no impact on specific equality groups.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications.

8. Recommendation

8.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the Waste and Recycling Collection Service Adverse Weather Plan.

8.2 Cabinet is asked to approve in particular the clause relating to the arrangements for suspended collections to the next scheduled collection day.

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Background Documents: Equalities Impact assessment toolkit