

Household waste

Additional allowance scheme 2017

Consultation document

Date of issue: 1 August 2016

Action required: Responses by 10 October 2016

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Overview

In early 2016 a public consultation was undertaken on the need to update the way refuse and recycling is collected in Bridgend County Borough in order to meet increasing recycling targets.

As a result of the consultation, from 1 April 2017 the authority will continue to collect waste on a fortnightly basis however, homes will be limited to a two black bag collection policy. In the original consultation, residents proposed making additional allowances in certain circumstances.

This consultation invites you to share your views on potential allowances associated with the new policy.

How to respond

This consultation period will begin on the **1 August 2016** and close on the **10 October 2016**.

You can respond or ask further questions in the following ways:

Tel: (01656) 643 664

Email: Consultation@bridgend.gov.uk

Online: Click here or visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation

Post: Communications, Marketing and Engagement,
Bridgend County Borough Council, Raven's Court, Wing 3, Brewery Lane, Bridgend, CF31 4AP.

Alternative formats are also available upon request.

Data protection

How we use the views and information you share with us.

All responses received by Bridgend County Borough Council will be seen in full by its staff members involved in the consultation process. The information may also be seen by other departments within the council or local service board members to help improve upon the services provided.

The council may also use the information gathered to publish subsequent documents both directly and indirectly linked to this consultation, however the council will never disclose any personal information such as names and addresses that could identify an individual.

If you do not wish for your opinions to be publicised, please state so in your response.

Related documents

- ▶ [Welsh Government Municipal Sector Plan Wales](#)
- ▶ [Towards Zero Waste One Wales: One Planet](#)
- ▶ [Previous consultation cabinet report](#)

For more information on consultations in Bridgend County Borough or how to join our Citizens' panel.

Visit: www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation

Background and information

Bridgend County Borough Council has in place a waste contract with its provider Kier to provide domestic refuse and recycling collections, the operation of three household waste amenity sites and other waste services such as a commercial waste collection. The council pays around £9 million annually to run its waste collection services and around £5 million of this is spent solely on waste disposal and processing.

The current collection service is provided in accordance with the Welsh Government's Municipal Sector Plan Wales 2011– collections blueprint. The Welsh Government has also introduced statutory recycling targets which every council in Wales has to achieve or face fines.

The current waste collection service has been successful and has enabled the council to meet previous Welsh Government statutory recycling targets, which was 52 per cent in 2012/13, Bridgend achieved a recycling rate of 57 per cent and was above target.

The statutory targets will gradually become harder to achieve, the current target is 58 per cent for 2015/16, followed by 64 per cent for 2019/20 and 70 per cent for 2024/25. Therefore, we will need to improve our current recycling performance to meet the future recycling targets or face fines of £200 for every tonne not recycled. This means that if we were to miss these statutory targets by just 1 per cent the council could face a fine of around £130,000.

Following a public consultation between 14 December 2015 and 8 February 2016 Bridgend County Borough Council Cabinet made the decision to continue with a fortnightly refuse collection however, homes will be limited to a two black bag collection policy. The local authority will now explore the possibility of introducing additional allowances for residents where leniencies are considered essential. A nappy and absorbent hygiene products recycling service will also be introduced in consideration for adult incontinency issues and young families. The current clinical waste collection services will continue as at present.

The waste contract with Kier has been in place since 2010 and the contract term is seven years. Therefore changes to the way waste is collected will be introduced in line with the introduction of a new waste contract in 2017.

The proposal

The following waste collection allowances are being considered:

1. Introducing an additional one bag waste collection for households with six or seven residents.

This would mean that households with six or seven residents would be able to have three black bags collected fortnightly. Introducing this proposal would result in a projected additional cost of £458,067.00 over the seven years of the contract.

2. Introducing an additional two bag waste collection for households with eight or more residents.

This would mean that households with eight or more residents would be able to have four black bags collected fortnightly. Introducing this proposal would result in a projected additional cost of £29,612.00 over the seven years of the contract.

3. Introducing an additional one bag waste collection for households using coal fires as a main source of heating (note: this does not include log burners).

If this proposal were to be introduced, households using coal fires as a main source of heating would be able to have one additional black bag (three in total) collected fortnightly. As a result there would be a projected additional cost of £786,759.70 over a seven year period.

What other councils are doing

Each local council has a differing method in the collection of waste and recycling. Both Carmarthenshire County Council and the city of Cardiff Council provide extra allowances for homes with six or more residents which would follow proposal one in this consultation. The city and county of Swansea Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council both operate on a case by case basis.

Carmarthenshire County Council and the city and county of Swansea Council allow additional ash waste to be collected by placing stickers onto the ash waste sacks. Similarly Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council allows additional ash waste

to be collected in manageable sized black bags. The city of Cardiff Council advises ash waste to be collected within the regular waste collection.

Why has the proposal been brought forward?

The council's current waste contract expires in 2017 and there is a need to ensure that the two bag limitation on fortnightly collections is as fair as realistically possible for all residents. It is important that any allowances will best support the council to achieve a target of 70 per cent recycling by 2024/25 and avoid any expensive fines imposed by Welsh Government.

What are the advantages if the proposal goes ahead?

Allowances will need to be made to ensure a fair approach to waste collection. Large families and coal fire users would be more likely to incur penalty notices without additional allowances made in order to collect waste. Both of these issues were raised in the original consultation as concerns should no allowances be granted.

What are the potential disadvantages if the proposal goes ahead?

Any introduction of an additional waste allowance scheme would create further work in granting and policing such a task. The scheme would take time to run efficiently with a high number of residents requesting additional support in the early phase of the new waste contract in April 2017.

The scheme would also need to consider how long any additional allowances would be granted and how best to mitigate abuse of the scheme.

What are the discounted alternatives?

The issue of disposal of pet waste was raised during the public consultation between 14 December 2015 and 8 February 2016. Allowing a dispensation for the disposal of pet waste was considered, however due to the need to achieve current and future statutory recycling targets and to reduce the burden of waste disposal costs faced by the Council at a time when budgets are under increasing pressures, increasing the amount of waste to be disposed of to landfill would make this dispensation cost prohibitive and therefore the Authority is unable to offer any form of dispensation, to the restriction on the collection of residual waste sacks (two sacks per fortnight), for pet waste disposal.

When considering additional allowances for households with a high number of occupants, households below six residents have been discounted due to the associated costs and secondary research of other councils within South Wales currently operating on similar schemes. The table below projects the cost of introducing additional allowance over the seven year term the new contract will run for. As the costs are significantly higher, households below six residents have been discounted.

Household size	Projected cost over seven year term
4 residents	£6,622,357.35
5 residents	£1,920,381.03

Impact of the proposal

An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening will be completed ready for when the consultation is live and will be reviewed following conclusion of this consultation (appendix 1.0).

The consultation process

Projected timetable for procedure and proposal implementation:

Activity	Date
Response deadline	10 October 2016
Final report published	10 November 2016
Report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation	29 November 2016
Potential implementation	1 April 2017

The outcomes of the consultation (which will be incorporated into the proposal to the report where possible) will be reported to the Cabinet of Bridgend County Borough

Council. If there is a decision not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal and an alternative proposal may be sought.

If any of the proposals are accepted by Cabinet the earliest the change(s) will come into effect is 1 April 2017.

How to respond

This consultation period will begin on the **1 August 2016** and close on the **10 October 2016**. You can respond or ask further questions in the following ways:

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Raven's Court, Wing 3,
Brewery Lane, Bridgend, CF31 4AP

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Appendix

Appendix 1.0 - Equality Impact Assessments (EIA).

Initial screening to be completed for 10 November 2016