

This Report will be made
public on 8 April 2019

Report Number: **OS/18/06**

To: Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 16 April 2019
Status: Non Key
Head of service: Roger Walton, Head of Environmental Services
Cabinet Member: Cllr Stuart Peall, Cabinet Member for the Environment

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC BIN AND CONTAINER CHARGES

SUMMARY: The discretionary fees and charges policy changed in April 2017 in that the replacement of refuse (residual) bins would be charged in all circumstances. Prior to this the replacement of refuse bins had been provided free of charge if lost or damaged on collection day. The purpose of this change was to control the spiraling costs of replacements. The Council continues to replace recycling bins and containers free of charge to residents if lost or damaged on the collection day.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To receive and note report OS/18/06.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The guidelines for the application of discretionary fees and charges for wheeled bins were originally approved by Cabinet on 19/12/12. The guidelines were further amended the following year on the 18/12/13 to provide greater clarity as to their application. The guidelines generally applied charges for the purchase and replacement of all size bins and waste containers other than household bins or containers lost or damaged as the result of the collection operation.
- 1.3 Changes in the guidelines were further approved in 16/11/16 with charging introduced for the replacement of refuse (residual bins) in all circumstances. These changes were applied from April 2017 and have operated for the past two years.
- 1.5 A scrutiny review was requested by Folkestone Town Council into the charging of replacement bins specifically when damaged or stolen, which was approved and added to the Annual Scrutiny Programme.

2. REFUSE BINS

- 2.1 The original stock of refuse bins was rolled out around 2000 and have been subject to wear and tear through age and use.
- 2.2 The guidelines approved by Cabinet in December 2013 set a clear policy that the replacement of all wheeled bins should be charged to the resident. This included replacements due to age wear and tear. An exception to this general rule was made for refuse or recycling bins considered lost or damaged due to the collection operation. In practice this was difficult to assess and was generally applied to any losses or damage arising that were reported to have occurred on the day of collection.
- 2.3 Due to the age of the bin stock the costs escalated; with a total sum of £121,212 spent in 2016/17. However, it was clear from the type of damage that a large number of the refuse bins replaced were breaking simply due to their age i.e. wear and tear.
- 2.5 The table below shows the costs paid for the replacement and delivery of all wheeled bins and containers and the income generated for the past four years.

	Wheeled Bin – Supply Costs	Wheeled Bin – Income Received
2018/19	£74,702	£74,506
2017/18	£86,374	£57,998
2016/17	£121,212	£65,152
2015/16	£86,135	£62,986

- 2.6 Changing the guidelines in 2017 has enabled the budget spend to remain controlled and has provided further clarity on when wheeled bins and containers attract a charge. In 2018, 192 refuse bins (180L size) were charged for replacement.
- 2.7 Any bin, that a resident can evidence was damaged on collection day by the contractor Veolia, will be investigated by Veolia directly. Where liability is agreed by them the refuse bin will be replaced and delivered free of charge. In 2018 this totaled 569 bins and containers of all types replaced free of charge.

3. RECYCLING BINS

- 3.1 Changing the guidelines has controlled the budget spend. This in turn has enabled recycling bins lost or damaged on collection day to continue to be replaced free of charge; this is not only beneficial to the environment but supports the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy that was adopted by FHDC in 2007 'to achieve a recycling rate of 50% by 2020'.

- 3.2 In 2018, over 3000 recycling bins and containers were replaced free of charge to residents. The continued replacement of recycling bins and containers free of charge (when lost or damaged on collection day) has supported the increase in the Council's recycling rate.

Year	Recycling Rate
2018/19	47% (Est)
2017/18	45%
2016/17	42%
2015/16	43%

- 3.3 The Corporate Plan includes within '*Appearance Matters*' - *Prepare a new recycling, waste and street cleansing contract for the district*. This project is already in progress ahead of January 2021 when the current contract with Veolia ends. As part of the new recycling, waste and street cleansing project, we continue to review the guidelines and policies in place. In the meantime, the guidelines for discretionary charges for wheeled bins and containers remain unchanged.

4 LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

4.1 Legal Officer's Comments

There are no legal implications arising directly out of this report.

4.2 Finance Officer's Comments (RH)

No financial implications, as no changes proposed. Wheeled bin figures as per report.

4.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications

No implications.

5. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councilors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting

Mandy Pile, Waste Services Manager
Telephone: 01304 872242
Email: mandy.pile@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Guidelines / Procedures for the application of Recycling and Waste discretionary Fees and Charges

Appendix 1:

Guidelines/ Procedures for the application of Recycling and Waste Discretionary Fees and Charges

Waste Collection Scheme

1. Folkestone & Hythe District Council provides kerbside collection services for dry-recyclables, kitchen waste, and residual waste and to subscribers only for garden waste.
2. The collection of waste and recyclable materials, their frequency, segregation and the containers used for collection are undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990: Sections 45 and 46.
3. In order to be collected by Folkestone & Hythe District Council, all wheeled bins and other containers used must comply with the Council's specifications, dimensions, and colour. Fully compliant wheeled bins will be supplied by the Council upon request and receipt of payment.
4. Containers provided on request by the Council include;
 - Mixed Recyclables (Glass/ Cans/ Plastic etc)
 - Purple lidded wheeled bin (Various sizes)
 - 55 litre purple box
 - Paper/ Card
 - 55 litre black box
 - Food Waste
 - 23 litre Kerbside caddy
 - 7 litre kitchen caddy
 - Residual Waste
 - Green lidded wheeled bin (Various sizes)
 - Garden Waste
 - 180 litre wheeled bin
5. All containers supplied remain the property of Folkestone & Hythe District Council and should remain with the property to which they were issued and not be removed when residents move house.

Replacement of Containers

6. The Council will charge for the replacement of all containers, other than recycling containers lost or damaged in the circumstances described in 7. Charges will be in accordance with the fees and charges schedule.
7. Recycling containers of the size 240 litre, 55 litre or 23 litre, which are in the ownership of the Council and are designed to be placed at the

kerbside, as part of the recycling collection service and which can be shown to be either damaged or lost as a result of collection operations will be replaced by the Council at no charge to the occupier.

Landlords and Management Agents

8. Folkestone & Hythe District Council will hold developers, landlords and managing agents, (as appropriate) responsible for the management and/or sale or letting of properties, to be responsible either directly or through a tenancy agreement, for the provision of containers for recycling and waste and to be charged in accordance with the fees and charges schedule.
9. Where a recycling or refuse container from a shared / multi occupied / communal site is lost or damaged, it will be the responsibility of the developer, landlord or managing agents (as appropriate) to arrange the replacement.

Other

10. Where customers are requesting the provision of a container for storage purposes only, containers will be supplied subject to payment of the requisite charge in accordance with the fees and charges schedule.
11. Folkestone & Hythe District Council's Head of Environmental Services shall have delegated authority to waive some of these charges in certain limited circumstances where it may be in the Authority's interests to do so. The cost of such waivers shall remain within budget, and shall take place within a framework established following consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment. The framework shall be communicated to customer contact staff through appropriate briefings.

November 2016