

CHILTERN & WYCOMBE JOINT WASTE COLLECTION COMMITTEE (JWCC)
10th April 2017

Review of waste policy no 23, Provision/Replacement of containers

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RECOMMENDATION:

To consider a review of the current waste policy for charging residents for replacement waste containers when they move into existing properties and how this applies to tenants of social housing

1. **Background**

Prior to the introduction of the Joint Waste Service (JWS) Chiltern and Wycombe District Councils harmonised their waste collection policies in order to provide a consistent approach. A joint waste policy harmonisation report was approved by JWCC in December 2012, following a joint overview and scrutiny session. It was in turn approved by the Cabinets of Chiltern and Wycombe. The harmonised policies included the charging criteria for waste containers.

In 2015, the waste policies and charging criteria were refreshed and taken to Joint Waste Collection Committee on 27th August, which approved the recommendations put forward. The following charging policies were approved:

Table 1

Full Charge : For container provision and delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If containers are damaged with no evidence provided that the crews were responsible • If resident moves into an existing property and containers are not present • If new developments are built and containers are required • Lost or stolen containers • Damaged containers and not the fault of the Council i.e. burnt out, driven over
Delivery charges only:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a different size bin i.e. 140L smaller bin
Free of charge: Containers are provided free of charge (with no delivery charge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If containers are damaged by crews, a replacement is still free of charge, but residents must present damaged containers for collection when replacements are delivered.

The primary change from the previous policy was that residents moving into existing properties (i.e. not new developments) where the containers had not been left by the previous occupiers, are now charged for the replacement containers; previously, they were not charged. If a resident moves in to a rented property where the containers are missing and contests the charge, they are advised to take this matter up with their landlord. The policy change was introduced due to the high demand for replacement containers and budgetary pressures.

Policy 23, Provision/Replacement of containers is attached as Appendix 1.

2 **Other local authorities**

Increasingly, more local authorities are altering their charging criteria for waste and recycling containers and are only providing them free when they are damaged by the collection crews or fall into the back of the collection vehicle. Adopting such an approach provides an opportunity to mitigate these increasing financial pressures. The amendment to the criteria for charging for containers was introduced in line with best practice.

3. **CDC Resources Overview Committee**

Resources Overview Committee at CDC have requested that the Joint Waste Collection Committee consider a review of the container charges which are levied to residents moving into social housing. The purpose of this report is to establish if the JWCC approves for this piece of work to take place.

4. **Financial implications**

Prior to 2013, the number of container requests being received by the Joint Waste Team had increased dramatically since the introduction of the new waste and recycling schemes in 2013. This placed a pressure on the budget and by 2015/16, was expected to lead to a deficit of approximately £32k. The revised waste policy on bin charges was introduced to mitigate against these financial pressures and the charges for bins were also increased as part of budget setting, coming into effect in April 2016, as set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Bin sizes	Previous charges for provision of bin, delivery and admin cost	Current charges from April 2016
140 litre	£31	£40
180 litre	£35	
240 litre	£35	
360 litre	£47	

For 2016/17, from April to December, the following costs and income have applied:

Table 3

Total income for sale of bins and boxes (April to Jan)	Total costs for supply and delivery of bins and boxes (April to Jan)	*Balance – covers admin costs	Total income CDC	Total income WDC
£107,248	£80,052	£27,196	£37,965.79	£69,282.20

*It is estimated that processing an individual request for containers may take from 5 – 10 minutes to process and processing requests for new developments may take a total of 20-30 minutes as an average.

4 **Container requests**

The following figures in table 4 demonstrate the number of tickets which have been logged for the provision and delivery of waste containers from April to December 2016. These figures do not give a complete picture of the total number of containers provided, as, in the case of new developments, one ticket will be logged on to the database to supply X number of containers for the properties at that development.

It is also not possible to determine the proportion of containers that are provided to:

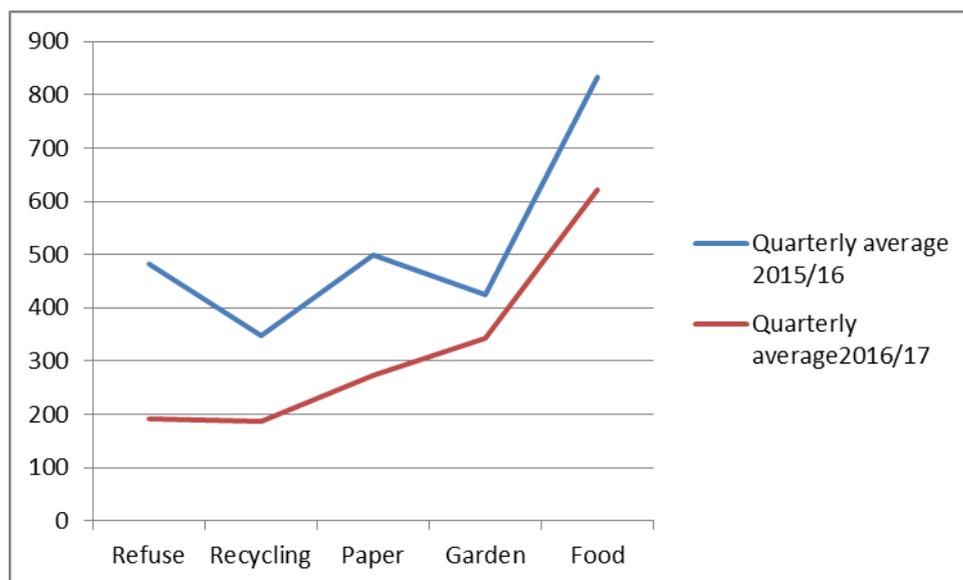
- New developments
- Existing properties and of those, whether the properties are privately rented or are social housing
- Or - whether the containers are to replace those which are lost, stolen or damaged.

These figures are compared with the figures for Qtrs 1-3 in 2015/16 (as these were readily available).

Table 4

Commodity	Qtrs 1 – 2, 2015/16	Quarterly average	Qtrs 1 – 3, 2016/17	Quarterly average
Residual waste	967	483	575	191
Recycling	696	348	564	188
Paper	1001	500	823	274
Garden	905	425	1029	343
Food	1668	834	1863	621

Tickets for container requests – Quarterly averages



The information provided above illustrates that the demand for containers has dropped during 2016/17 as compared with the previous year. This may, in part, be due to the increase in the charge for two wheeled bins, thus placing the onus on residents to make more of an effort to look for containers when they go missing.

It is not currently possible to gain further detail on the nature of container distribution, i.e. which categories of residents are requesting containers and why, as the database is not set up with the relevant codes to extract this level of detail.

6. Option to review policy

Joint Waste Collection Committee is asked to consider that a review of the charging policy for replacing waste containers for residents living in social housing should take place, with the recommendation that social landlords are charged for any replacement containers. The waste team would need to communicate these changes with the social landlords prior to

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its introduction and will report back to Joint Waste Collection Committee at the next meeting.

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