

Equality Impact Assessment

Section 1 - Context Setting

1. Title of strategy, policy, project, service (Now known as ‘the proposal’)

Charging for ‘Recycle for Dorset’ containers – the paper to be presented to the Joint Committee on 12th September recommends the DWP charges for certain ‘Recycle for Dorset’ containers as permitted by the Environment Protection Act 1990 (s46)

2. Service and lead officer:

Gemma Clinton, Interim Head of Strategy, Dorset Waste Partnership

3. Officers involved in the EqIA:

Lisa Mounty / Louise Bryant, Service Development Manager
Sarah Wasey, Business Development Officer

4. What does the proposal assess?

Existing:

New/proposed:

Changing/Update/revision

Other

please list below

5. What are the aims and objectives of the proposal?

The DWP has been tasked with making some very challenging savings in coming years and in order to deliver these savings, all budgets are being scrutinised.

The ‘Recycle for Dorset’ service is offered to all households with no charge made for the service. The service comprises of:

- Weekly collection of food from a 23 litre food container
- Fortnightly 240 litre wheeled bin collection of paper, cardboard, cans, aerosols, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays

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- Fortnightly collection of glass from a recycling box
- Fortnightly collection of refuse from a 140 litre wheeled bin

Under Section 46 of the Environment Protection Act, a Council may serve notice on the occupiers of the premises from which it collects household waste, requiring those occupiers to place their waste in receptacles of a particular kind and of a particular number. The Council may specify the size, type and colour of these receptacles, and that a charge can be made to the householder for the specified containers.

Now that the service has been implemented and all households have been provided with containers, potential savings in the cost of supplying non-standard wheeled bins and containers for the 'Recycle for Dorset' waste and recycling collection service are being considered.

The 'Recycle for Dorset' scheme currently offers residents a number of non-standard variations, such as bigger residual bins for larger families or additional refuse sacks for families with one or more children in disposable nappies. Whilst this level of flexibility made the introduction of the scheme more attractive to Dorset residents, there are on-going revenue and capital costs as a result.

The 'Recycle for Dorset' policy entitles families of five or more to apply for a larger 240l refuse bin instead of the standard 140l bin. The DWP proposes to charge a fee of £33 for this container swap. Only families eligible under the policy will be entitled to apply and pay for this larger container. In exceptional circumstances where a 360l bin is required, the charge would be £55.

The DWP would like to revise the current policy for eligibility for additional refuse sacks (ARC) to restrict the availability of these to families who are not entitled to a larger 240l refuse bin (i.e. 5+ in household). The charge for these sacks will be £13 for 26 sacks. The household must re-apply and pay annually to receive this entitlement.

Additionally, with a considerable amount of new properties being built each year, there is an ongoing and significant financial burden associated with supplying and delivering containers to these new households.

Implementing the proposal would allow the DWP to recover the costs of purchasing and delivering non-standard household waste containers as permitted by the EPA 1990 (s46), resulting in a saving of approximately £124,000 per annum.

6. Who will be involved in the implementing and/or delivery of the proposal?

DWP officers only

7. Who could be impacted (either negative or positive) with the implementation of the proposal?

(For example, public, visitors, staff members or partners)

The standard 'Recycle for Dorset' service provides suitable residual & recycling containment for households and is available free of charge to households across Dorset. However, in certain circumstances, some residents can apply for additional capacity / variation to their service if they meet certain criteria:

- Larger families – families of five or more can apply for a larger, 240l wheeled bin for residual waste.
- Families with one or more children in disposable nappies under three years of age can apply for additional residual capacity (26 authorised sacks).

The implementation of this proposal will therefore primarily impact upon those residents who are eligible under the 'Recycle for Dorset' policy to obtain additional capacity through a non-standard variation of the service. According to our statistics, the number of households who have requested a non-standard variation equates to approximately 5-6% of the total number of households.

The new proposal will also impact residents who move into new builds (estimated 1,300 new properties in Dorset per annum). However, the DWP will work with housing developers to establish their requirements and where possible, encourage the developer to fund the cost of the new containers to avoid it falling onto the householders.

Section 2 – Information Gathering**1. What, data, information, evidence, research was used in this EqIA and how has it been used to inform the decision making process?**

To enable officers to ascertain the potential savings that could be achieved by implementing this proposal and to determine a suitable charge for each containment type which accurately reflects the actual cost of the container, the following data was collated:

- Number of each container type delivered
- Cost of each container type
- Cost of delivery / collection
- Cost to take payment
- Cost of taking phone call
- Cost of admin and officer time
- Details of actual spend on 'Recycle for Dorset' containers over the past 4 years
- Number of requests for non-standard variations as a proportion of the total number of households
- Number & type of new housing development expected

2. What data do you already have about your service users, or the people your proposal will have an impact on?

The DWP holds an extensive household waste database which includes details of all households which currently have a non-standard variation of the 'Recycle for Dorset' service.

This data enables officers to ascertain the likely impact of this proposal in terms of the number of households that will request a non-standard variation in the future. Currently, the number of requests for non-standard variations as a proportion of the total number of households is low, approximately 5 – 6%. The negative impact of this proposal will therefore be minimal.

3. What engagement or consultation has taken place as part of this EqIA?

No engagement or consultation has taken place.

4. Is further information needed to help inform this proposal?

No.

Section 3 – Assessing the Impact

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 states that a public authority must in carrying out its functions have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate all forms of discrimination; harassment and victimisation that are prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
- Advance equality of opportunity.
- Foster good relations.

1. What does the consultation, data, evidence tell us about the likely impact on any equality group?¹ (Please include a summary of the data used, an attachment or link to it)

Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Negative impact	Neutral impact	Unclear	Please explain the impact
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Gender Identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pregnancy and Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative impact on families with one or more children in disposable nappies as they will be charged for additional residual capacity. Families of 5 or more will be charged for a larger, 240l wheeled bin for residual waste
Race and Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Religion or Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Some religions and beliefs e.g. catholic, Mormons may be impacted if they have more children than average. This is difficult to define as there is no data available on this.
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

¹ This will include impacts upon workforce including staff transferring under TUPE to a new service provider

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Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other socially excluded groups (Carers, rural isolation, low income, armed forces personnel)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposal will have a negative impact on families on low income

Section 4 - Action Plan, Monitoring and Communication

What plans do you have in place, or are developing, that will mitigate the likely identified negative impacts?

Objective / Outcome	SMART Action	Lead officer	Deadline
Minimise impact to low income families who either require a larger bin or ARC sacks	The Recycling Team will provide advice and information to those who request it on ways in which they can use the standard recycling/refuse capacity and therefore negate the need to purchase either a larger bin or ARC sacks. This will take the form of either telephone advice, written correspondence and leaflets etc or household visits. Officers will provide information on what can be recycled and ensure all materials that can be recycled are being placed into the correct container.	Marten Gregory	Ongoing when requests are made

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	They will also offer information on waste reduction methods— e.g. reducing and using leftover foods to reduce the amount disposed of, home composting, reuse, buying items with less packaging and junk mail reduction.		
Minimise impact to families who either require ARC sacks	The Recycling Team will offer information on the 'Real Nappy Incentive Scheme' that is available to Dorset residents. A subsidy of £30 is provided to residents who purchase washable nappies. These washable nappies also reduce the overall cost of nappies and can be used for more than one child thereby increasing the savings made.	Marten Gregory	Ongoing when requests are made

1. Good communication is essential to help ensure that the proposal is correctly implemented. **How will this proposal be communicated?**

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This proposal will be communicated via the 'Recycle for Dorset' webpages on 'Dorset for You', and via the online e-forms which are used by residents (& Customer Service Officers at Dorset Direct) to request a non-standard variation.

As part of the proposal, a grade 7 administration officer will be recruited on a full time basis to manage the additional customer contact and processes. Key tasks of this officer will also include liaising with housing developers and dealing with any complaints.

2. The full impact of the proposal may only be known after the proposal has been implemented. **How will the impact of the proposal be monitored?**

The number of requests for chargeable containers will be monitored continuously through the use of LAGAN and the DWP household waste database. The charges will be reviewed annually. LAGAN will also be used to monitor any complaints relating to the proposal.

The expectation is you will continue to work with the communities you engaged with in this proposal. Please use this space to include how the outcome of consultation will be fed back to those who you consulted with.

Although the community haven't been directly engaged in the development of this proposal, the DWP will endeavour to feedback the outcomes through use of newsletter articles, press releases, information on the website and various educational roadshows that are held across the County. The information about charges would also be made available through contact with residents e.g. talks and presentations.

Section 5 - Decision Making Process

After consideration please state your final recommendations based on the findings from this EqlA. This will be used to inform the decision making process. Include any examples of good practice and positive action taken.

The impact of this proposal is minimal. The recommendation is therefore to proceed.

** Please specify if confidential or exempt information has been used in this EqlA.

**This EqlA was approved by ...Jan Hill..... on behalf of
Directorate Diversity Group.**

This EqlA was signed off by ...Karyn Punchard Project Sponsor

Date: 16/08/16

Action Plan review date:

