



Councils working together

Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee

Date of Meeting	7 November 2016
Officer	Head of Service (Operations)
Subject of Report	Narrow Access Routes – Savings Options
Executive Summary	This report reviews the application of the DWP policy for collection of containers from the highway where there are long drives or private roads, It also updates on the issue of collecting glass with recycling on narrow access rounds.
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>There is no requirement for an Equalities Impact Assessment for this report.</p>
	<p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>WYG Report – Phase 2 “Alternative Collection Model/Potential Outsourcing” Recycle for Dorset Policy – Updated September 2015</p>
	<p>Budget:</p> <p>Subject to further review during future route optimisation a saving of approximately £140k per annum could be realized by a reduction in narrow access vehicles.</p>
	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council’s approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: MEDIUM Residual Risk MEDIUM</p>

Narrow Access Report

	<p>Other Implications:</p> <p>The report sets out alternative ways in which services could be delivered and thereby help to contribute to longer-term service improvements for DWP. The full implications any changes would need to be assessed as proposals are progressed.</p>
Recommendation	<p>That the Joint Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approves the proposal to retain existing household collection points;2. Approves revised wording to the Recycle for Dorset Service policy as set out in Paragraph 3.5;3. Agrees to continue to collect glass as a separate waste stream on narrow access routes
Reason for Recommendation	<p>Implementing the adopted policy across the whole of the area covered by DWP will allow for this to be taken into account in future route optimisation projects.</p>
Appendices	<p>Appendix 1. Recycle for Dorset Policy – Updated September 2015</p>
Background Papers	<p>WYG Report – Phase 2 “Alternative Collection Model/Potential Outsourcing Recycle for Dorset Policy – Updated September 2015</p>
Report Originator and Contact	<p>Name: Mike Moon, Head of Service (Operations) Tel: 01305 225789 Email: m.moon@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>

1. Background

- 1.1 Dorset Waste Partnership has an agreed Recycle for Dorset Service Policy which was updated in September 2015. This policy covers all issues including the collection points from where all containers are collected from.
- 1.2 The updated policy states that containers should be placed on the kerbside at the boundary/edge of curtilage of the property adjacent to the public road (adopted highway), unless otherwise agreed by the DWP. Wheeled bins and containers must be clearly visible with no restrictions to access.
- 1.3 Where a household is on a private or 'un-adopted' road and council collection vehicles have historically accessed this road, the DWP has endeavoured to continue to do so. This has been subject to obtaining permissions and/or indemnity against damage from the owner.
- 1.4 Dorset Waste Partnership currently operate 63 narrow access collections rounds which service approximately 20,500 properties. It is estimated that over 15 000

Narrow Access Report

properties are collected from un-adopted or private roads, including approximately 6,000 on the narrow access rounds.

- 1.5 WYG report Phase 2 “Alternative Collection Model/Potential outsourcing” makes reference to potential savings (£120,000) by collecting glass with the co-mingled recycling on narrow access rounds.
- 1.6 On December 14 2015 The Joint Committee agreed for the DWP to conduct further work and analysis regarding any potential savings in including glass in the recycling mix on narrow access rounds.

2. Legislation

- 2.1 The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) underpins the requirement for households to place their receptacles at a location specified by the Local Authority(section 46).
- 2.2 Under Section 46 of the EPA a council may serve a notice on the occupiers of the premises from which it collects household waste, requiring those occupiers to place their receptacles in a designated position for the purpose of facilitating the emptying of them.

3. Private and Un-adopted highway

- 3.1 When the Recycle for Dorset service was first rolled out members asked that properties served by long drives or private roads should initially receive the same service, with collection points unchanged. It was recognised that this was a short term arrangement to assist the transition to the new service, even though it is contrary to the approved Service Policy. The number of narrow access vehicles required could be reduced by ceasing to go down long drives or private highways. Residents could be offered bag and box service to make it easier to transport items up to the collection point at the public highway. It is estimated that over 15 000 properties are collected from un-adopted or private roads.
- 3.2 If the policy remained as it is there would still be some properties on un-adopted roads that the DWP will want to continue to service in order to optimise operational efficiency, such as the need to turn at the end of the road or where there isn't a suitable and safe stopping point to collect the materials where the un-adopted road meets the public highway. On a case by case basis the DWP would consider to service the un-adopted roads providing the owner has provided suitable indemnification to do so.
- 3.3 If the policy agreed in September 2015 was to be enforced across the whole of the DWP area it is anticipated the number of assisted collections would rise dramatically and a collection vehicle would still have to attend to collect.
- 3.4 It is anticipated that there would be a saving of 2 x 7.5 tonne collection vehicles and this would realise a saving of approximately £140k per annum. However, a balance needs to be struck between the cost of service disruption and reputational damage which may be unacceptably high in comparison to the relatively small saving on offer.
- 3.5 It is therefore recommended that the collection points remain as they are and DWP continue to provide the services as usual. The current wording of the service policy is “Containers should be placed on the kerbside at the boundary/edge of curtilage of

the property adjacent to the public road (adopted highway) unless otherwise agreed by the DWP” and it is recommended that this is amended to “Containers should be placed on the kerbside at the boundary/edge or curtilage of the property adjacent to the highway, unless otherwise agreed by the DWP. Wheeled bins and containers must be clearly visible with no restrictions to access.”

4. Glass Collections for narrow access properties

- 4.1 The WYG report based its calculated savings for narrow access on the Portland model. Currently in Portland the DWP use a 15T vehicle for narrow access with a split body. This collects dry mixed recycling (DMR) and glass, and a separate vehicle collects food. However, on a Tuesday, for those properties that cannot be accessed by a 15T vehicle a 7.5T vehicle is used and visits the same properties twice in a day on recycling week, once for DMR and once for glass.
- 4.2 Whilst savings could be achieved by rolling out this model it would also increase the contamination levels of our dried mixed recycling (DMR), which will negatively impact on our basket price for this material. The WYG report identified 2% of glass contamination is already included in our DMR. Adding additional glass into the mix from narrow access properties will increase the “contamination” levels further. As we have been getting very good basket prices since the WYG report was written it is considered that any savings made would be offset by the increase in basket price. At this point in time officers therefore recommend keeping glass separate from the standard DMR and continuing to market glass as a separate material so as not to reduce the quality of our standard DMR.
- 4.3 The current infrastructure in the East of the County does not allow for us to have a separate bay to store narrow access DMR with glass in. It is anticipated that once we have better infrastructure in place in the East of the County, whereby we could keep this material separate we would revisit this as a savings option.
- 4.4 An alternative to this glass in option, would be to reduce the frequency of collection of glass to monthly for these narrow access properties. This option has not been progressed further due to the consideration of this issue on 12 September at the DWP Budget Challenge Workshop where members expressed no desire to change frequency of collections.

Mike Moon
Head of Service (Operations)
October 2016