



Councils working together

Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee

Date of Meeting	12 June 2017
Officer	Gemma Clinton, Head of Service (Strategy)
Subject of Report	Revised "Recycle for Dorset" Service Policy
Executive Summary	<p>The Recycle for Dorset (R4D) Service Policy needs to be updated to reflect the fact that the DWP have finished rolling out the R4D Service to all properties and are now in a business as usual state.</p> <p>The proposed draft policy is contained in Appendix 1 of this report. It reflects the policy objectives of the Revised Dorset Waste Strategy and also delivers the needs of the DWP 2017/18 Business Plan.</p> <p>The key changes to the policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The additional section about Gull Proof Sacks• The omission of the free collection of Christmas trees at the kerbside with rubbish bins• Other minor typographical and updating revisions <p>This draft policy was taken to the DWP Joint Scrutiny Group on 03 April this year and the group made the following recommendation:</p> <p>That in reviewing the draft proposed R4D Service Policy, the Joint Committee be asked to endorse the revised Policy, as set out in the Head of Service's report.</p>

Revised “Recycle for Dorset” Service Policy

Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: EqIA for Recycle for Dorset Service 2011
	Use of Evidence: DWP KPI's 2015/16
	Budget: The adoption of the draft policy should produce annual savings in the region of £10k
	Risk Assessment: N/A
	Other Implications: None
Recommendation	That the Joint Committee review the draft proposed R4D Service Policy and approve this revised policy.
Reason for Recommendation	To help the DWP meet it's 2017/18 Business Plan objectives
Appendices	Appendix 1: Draft Recycle for Dorset Service Policy Review Appendix 2: Current Recycle for Dorset Service Policy
Background Papers	Revised Joint Municipal Dorset Waste Management Strategy, 2008-2033 DWP Business Plan 2017/18
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1. Background

- 1.1 The Recycle for Dorset Service (R4D) Policy is the detailed policy that has been adopted and used by the Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) to deliver a uniform kerbside collection service across Dorset.
- 1.2 The Service Policy contains the detail around the R4D service and any variations residents are entitled to. The policy fully supports the aims and objectives of the Dorset Waste Partnership, as set out in its Business Plan and the Revised Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset. They are:
- Maintaining customer satisfaction
 - Investigate further options for cashable savings
 - Encourage application of the waste hierarchy
 - Meet our statutory requirements
 - Seek to work in partnership

2. Revisions to the Current Policy

- 2.1 Since the DWP's formation in 2011, the DWP have been focussed on rolling out the Recycle for Dorset Service to all properties in Dorset. The roll out was completed in 2015 and we are in the process of driving further efficiencies from the uniform collection service.
- 2.2 In September 2016, Members of the DWP Joint Committee gave officers a clear steer to focus on making the existing R4D service work well and perform at a high level prior to any other cost savings proposals, such as any change in collection frequencies.
- 2.3 The review of the R4D Service Policy has mainly focussed on making the policy more relevant to the current business as usual service, as opposed to the existing policy which is more focussed on the roll out of R4D. There are, however, two areas of the policy that we are proposing to change.

3. Gull Proof Sacks

- 3.1 Under the existing Recycle for Dorset policy (Appendix 2), households unable to use wheeled bins due to the property type and/or lack of sufficient storage space are given an alternative to wheeled bins which is a bag and box service.
- 3.2 In some areas of the County the blue sacks are vulnerable to being attacked by seagulls and vermin, causing significant littering problems. This problem is predominantly in Weymouth & Portland and coastal areas of West Dorset. Prior to the DWP, the partners in these areas provided their bag and box residents with a gull proof bag (either free of charge or charged) in which to present their blue sacks for collection. A gull proof bag is a reusable polypropylene bag with a lid and velcro closure.
- 3.3 These historic arrangements were harmonized in February 2015 in agreement with the Management Board (now Commissioning Group). They proposed that the sacks should be made available to all blue sack residents across Dorset and the estimated additional costs associated with this change of £5,311 would be absorbed by the current budget.
- 3.4 Section 4.4 of the draft revised Recycle for Dorset policy (Appendix 1) is a new section that describes the service we now provide in relation to Gull Proof Sacks – shown in bold italic typeface.

4. Christmas Trees

- 4.1 Christmas trees are classified as Schedule 2 waste under the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992. This means there is no obligation on councils to collect Christmas trees and should they do so they have the discretion to charge householders a reasonable amount for this service.
- 4.2 The DWP's current policy states that we will collect Christmas trees with residual waste (rubbish bins) after Christmas and they will be disposed of with the rubbish in landfill or treatment. This contradicts the waste hierarchy and doesn't comply with the DWP's objectives in our business plan or waste strategy.
- 4.3 The waste hierarchy promotes the reduction and reuse of waste, then the recycling of it and as a last resort treatment and disposal to landfill should be considered. Last Christmas we received complaints from residents that Christmas trees were being collected for landfill or treatment (and not composted).

Revised "Recycle for Dorset" Service Policy

- 4.4 For or this reason, along with making cashable savings in the region of £10k it is proposed to stop collecting Christmas trees with the rubbish bins in the 2 to 3 weeks after Christmas. Residents will instead be encouraged to use their garden waste service, take their real Christmas tree to a HRC, or use charitable Christmas tree collections. This revised policy can be seen in section 8.2 of Appendix 1, shown in bold italic typeface.

Gemma Clinton
Head of Service (Strategy)
June 2017