



# EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Executive Member for Environment
<b>LEAD OFFICERS:</b>	Director of Environment and Leisure
<b>DATE:</b>	8 December 2016

<b>PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:</b>	Environment
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	All
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>SUBJECT: Petition:</b>	Say NO to Fortnightly Rubbish Collections
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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A petition has been received following the Council's decision to move to alternate weekly collections in October 2016. Residents still receive a weekly collection – one week household waste is collected from the burgundy bin, the next week recycling is collected from the grey bin.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:  
Maintain the alternate weekly collections of rubbish and recycling across the Borough.

## 3. BACKGROUND

Following the introduction of alternate weekly collections within Blackburn with Darwen in October this year, an e- petition has been received by the Council, containing 268 signatures, stating "Say NO to Fortnightly Rubbish Collections", "We the undersigned call upon the Council to ensure the continuation of weekly refuse collections to ensure clean and tidy neighbourhoods and to control the growing problem of urban rats and other vermin".

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 states that waste collection authorities have a duty to arrange waste collections, but there are no requirements about how frequent these collections should be.

The majority of Councils throughout the country empty their household waste bins once every two weeks and in some boroughs, it is every three weeks. Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council was one of only two Councils in the North West that provided a weekly household waste collection service, having moved to a weekly collection service from an alternate weekly collection of household waste in 2007/2008.

In July 2016, the Council approved the introduction of alternate weekly collections within the borough. The change to alternate weekly collections commenced on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016. Residents still receive a weekly collection – one week, household waste is collected from the burgundy bin, the next week recycling is collected from the grey bin.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS**

The Council has been dealing with severe and unprecedented budget cuts since 2010 and the way services are delivered has been affected throughout the process with the Council either reducing services or seeking to work in partnership with communities and volunteers to deliver services.

With a further £48m savings required by 2020, the Council has had to review how it delivers the waste collection service in Blackburn with Darwen. Changing the way we collect household waste will save over £200,000 pounds each year in service costs, plus the Council would gain financially, if these changes increased recycling rates and less household waste was sent to landfill.

As well as financial constraints, the Council needs to meet demanding government targets to reduce the amount of waste we produce and try to recycle more. If the Council does not meet these targets, the Council could face tough financial penalties and it's likely these penalties would be passed on to Council Tax payers.

The most sustainable way to manage our waste is to alternate bin collections, which encourages householders to recycle more. To achieve the targets, the Council needs to increase recycling rates in the borough from the current rate of 36% to at least 50%, the Government's target, by 2020.

Recycling in the borough has reduced over the past 5 years from a high of 45%, to the current level of 36%. The Council has had no option but to drive further recycling, in order to meet the Government's target, as tonnages of waste put out in the burgundy bins by residents has increased in the last 5 years.

Prior to the introduction of the alternate weekly collections in October 2016, independent analysis of the waste collection and recycling services showed the following:-

- On average, across the borough, only 51% of grey recycling bins are put out for collection each fortnight, prior to 3rd October
- On average, across the borough, only 53% of burgundy (rubbish) bins are put out for collection each week
- The burgundy (rubbish) bins contain on average 17.3% of materials that could be recycled via the grey recycling bin, which if recycled could save the Council Tax payers £117,000 per year on top of the £200,000 previously mentioned above. This is down to the differential in disposal costs, with recycling costing some £26 per tonne cheaper than it costs to dispose of a tonne of rubbish from the burgundy bin.

To enable residents to cope with the service change, provision has been made for households with 4 or more persons to apply for a larger 240 litre burgundy bin, to replace the existing 140 litre bin. This will help reduce problems associated with vermin, as the waste will be contained within a bin and not left in bags in collection areas.

#### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Waste and recycling are statutory services, with the move to alternate weekly collections helping to achieve the Council's priority of making your money go further.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

the impact of not achieving recycling and waste diversion targets, could see the council face tough financial penalties.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Council has statutory functions as a waste collection and disposal authority and must comply with the provisions contained in Environmental Protection Act 1990. The changes in the frequency of residual waste collections to fortnightly do not contravene the statutory requirements.

The petition must be considered in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme contained in the Council's Constitution.

## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications from this report.

## 9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1  Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2  In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3  In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

## 10. CONSULTATIONS

Consultations have been held with regards to the joint Lancashire Municipal Waste Management Strategy, that commits the Council to achieving waste and recycling targets.

## 11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

## 12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

<b>VERSION:</b>	0.01
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Tony Watson
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<b>DATE:</b>	27 October 2016
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<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	
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