

Record of an individual Cabinet member decision

Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Decision made by	Tony Harbour
Key decision?	Yes
Date of decision (same as date form signed)	25/8/16
Name and job title of officer requesting the decision	Ian Matten Parks and Waste Services Manager
Officer contact details	Tel:01235 422113 Email: ian.matten@southandvale.gov.uk
Decision	To amend the councils wheelie bin policy so that from 3 October 2016, residents should put recycling in their green wheelie bin either loose or in clear sacks otherwise their bin will not be emptied.
Reasons for decision	<p>We are experiencing high levels of contamination in the recycling that we collect. Black sacks in the recycling bins are the major contributor to this problem because experience shows they can contain items such as food and nappies.</p> <p>We have already taken some steps to tackle the problem of contamination including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • put “No food waste” and “ No nappies” stickers on recycling bins • put Oops tags on contaminated bins and not emptied them • recent communications relating to the waste service have included information on the contamination problem • Biffa are visually scanning recycling loads at their depot and are manually removing obvious contaminants • trialling a different type of bulk bin, they have reduced apertures so sacks cannot be placed inside them, at communal properties. <p>Contamination of loads means that good recycling gets spoilt</p>

and is then rejected. The impact is that our recycling rate is falling so we receive reduced income from recycling credits. Although the district council does not pay it, there is an increased cost of disposal because it is more expensive to dispose of general waste collected than it is to process recycling.

By introducing the policy in October we will have time to inform residents of the change. The Communications and waste teams are working together to form a comprehensive communications plan.

The key messages will be:

- from 3 October 2016, we will only accept recycling that's either loose in your green wheelie bin or in clear sacks
- loose is best as you'll also save money on sacks and if you give your recycling a quick rinse you can keep your wheelie bin fresh
- we're having to stop people from using black sacks as food waste and dirty nappies are still contaminating whole truckloads of our recycling as we can't see through the sacks some people are using. This is despite a recent campaign to raise awareness of the issue
- if there's a sack in a recycling bin and the crews can't see what's in it, they'll have to assume it contains contamination and won't empty it, to avoid further recycling being contaminated and having to be disposed of
- you can buy clear sacks from major supermarkets and hardware stores
- if you have recycling that won't fit in your green wheelie bin you can still put it in an open cardboard box or clear sack next to it for collection.

We will have a phased approach to implementation. Initially if black sacks are found in the recycling bin it will be tagged and residents reminded to put recycling in loose or in clear sacks. After 1 November 2016 if black sacks are found in the bin, the bin will be tagged and left unemptied.

The other Oxfordshire districts already prohibit the use of black sacks in recycling bins.

To retain the existing policy allowing the use of black sacks within the recycling bin. This will not solve the contamination issue. We need to take action to address the problem, as

Alternative options rejected


	recycling which could be used is having to be disposed of because it is contaminated. This is a waste of natural resources, is more expensive and is not fair to residents that do buy into the service and whose good efforts are subsequently worthless.																																				
Legal implications	None																																				
Financial implications	If the contamination continues to the same extent there will be a reduction in recycling credits received by the council which is estimated to be £6,000 per annum. We are putting in place a communications campaign to inform residents about this change in policy. The only additional cost will be for bin hangers which will be used when people have placed black/coloured sacks in their recycling bin. The approximate cost is £4600 half of which will be paid for by Biffa and the rest will be met from within existing budgets.																																				
Other implications	It is likely we will upset a small minority of residents who have been using black sacks, but clear sacks are widely available and residents don't have to use one at all.																																				
Background papers considered	None																																				
Declarations/conflict of interest?	None																																				
Declaration of other councillor/officer consulted by the Cabinet member?	None																																				
List consultees	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Name</th> <th>Outcome</th> <th>Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ward councillors</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal</td> <td>Pat Connell</td> <td>No comment</td> <td>11 August 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finance</td> <td>Simon Hewings</td> <td>Comments included in the report</td> <td>5 August 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Human resources</td> <td>Mark Gibbons</td> <td>No comment</td> <td>4 August 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sustainability</td> <td>Heather Saunders</td> <td>No Comment</td> <td>8 August 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diversity and equality</td> <td>Cheryl Reeves</td> <td>No Comment</td> <td>4 August 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communications</td> <td>Shona Ware</td> <td>Comments included in the report</td> <td>12 August 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Head of service</td> <td>Clare Kingston</td> <td>No comment</td> <td>12 August 2016</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Name	Outcome	Date	Ward councillors				Legal	Pat Connell	No comment	11 August 2016	Finance	Simon Hewings	Comments included in the report	5 August 2016	Human resources	Mark Gibbons	No comment	4 August 2016	Sustainability	Heather Saunders	No Comment	8 August 2016	Diversity and equality	Cheryl Reeves	No Comment	4 August 2016	Communications	Shona Ware	Comments included in the report	12 August 2016	Head of service	Clare Kingston	No comment	12 August 2016
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Confidential decision? If so, under which exempt category?	No																																				
Call-in waived by Scrutiny Committee chairman?	No																																				
Cabinet member's																																					

signature

To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.

Signature _____

Date _____


28-8-2016

ONCE SIGNED, THIS FORM MUST BE HANDED TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES IMMEDIATELY

For Democratic Services office use only		
Form received	Date: 25/8/16	Time: 3pm
Date published to all councillors	Date: 25/8/16	
Call-in deadline	Date: 2/9/16	Time: 5pm