

**Bridgend County Borough Council**

Household waste & recycling review 2015

Consultation document

**Date of issue**: **14 December 2015**

**Action required:** Responses by **8 February 2016**

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**www.bridgend.gov.uk**

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## Overview

The council’s current waste contract expires in 2017 and there is a need to update the current way refuse and recycling is collected in Bridgend County Borough so that the council can achieve higher recycling rates and reduce the amount of refuse sent to landfill. This change is designed to help the authority achieve a target of 70 per cent recycling by 2024/25 and avoid any expensive fines imposed by Welsh Government.

This consultation invites you to share your views on how the council can best achieve higher recycling rates and reduce refuse sent to landfill.

## How to respond

This consultation period will begin on the
 **14 December 2015** and close on the
 **8 February 2016**.

You can respond or ask further questions in the following ways:

Tel:(01656) 643 664

Email: Consultation@bridgend.gov.uk

Online: [Click here](https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=144707555395) or visit [www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation)

Post: Communications, Marketing and Engagement,
Bridgend County Borough Council, Raven’s Court, Wing 3, Brewery Lane, Bridgend, CF31 4AP.

Alternative formats are also available upon request.

## Data protection

How we use the views and information you share with us.

All responses received by Bridgend County Borough Council will be seen in full by its staff members involved in the consultation process. The information may also be seen by other departments within the council or local service board members to help improve upon the services provided.

The council may also use the information gathered to publish subsequent documents both directly and indirectly linked to this consultation, however the council will never disclose any personal information such as names or addresses that could identify an individual.

If you do not wish for your opinions to be publicised, please state so in your response.

## Related documents

* [Welsh Government Municipal Sector Plan Wales](http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/waste_recycling/publication/municipalsectorplan/?lang=en)
* [Towards Zero Waste One Wales: One Planet](http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/waste_recycling/zerowaste/?lang=en)
* [Table of Welsh Local Authority website detail](http://www.wlga.gov.uk/authorities)

For more information on consultations in Bridgend County Borough or how to join our Citizens’ panel.

Visit: www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation

## Background and information

Bridgend County Borough Council has in place a waste contract with its provider Kier to provide domestic refuse and recycling collections, the operation of three household waste amenity sites and other waste services such as a commercial waste collection. The council pays around £10 million annually to run its waste services and around £5 million of this is spent solely on waste disposal and processing.

The current collection service is provided in accordance with the Welsh Government’s Municipal Sector Plan Wales 2011– collections blueprint. The Welsh Government has also introduced statutory recycling targets which every council in Wales has to achieve.

The waste collection service has been successful and has enabled the council to meet previous Welsh Government statutory recycling targets, which was 52 per cent in 2012/13, Bridgend achieved a recycling rate of 57 per cent and was above target.

The statutory targets will gradually become harder to achieve, the current target is 58 per cent for 2015/16, followed by 64 per cent for 2019/20 and 70 per cent for 2024/25. Therefore, we will need to improve our current recycling performance to meet the future recycling targets or face fines of £200 for every tonne not recycled. This means that if we were to miss these statutory targets by just 1 per cent the council could face a fine of around £100,000.

Therefore the council needs to introduce changes to the current way it collects waste from householders so that it is possible to meet the higher Welsh Government statutory recycling targets and avoid expensive fines.

## The proposals

The following waste collection proposals are being considered as ways to increase the amount of recycling collected and reduce the amount of refuse disposed of in landfill. With all of the options below the recycling collections remain weekly.

**Proposal one – how we collect your household waste (this excludes recycling)**

### Option one – two week collections restricted to two black bags

Refuse collections to remain fortnightly but there will be a restriction on the number of black bags allowed, for example a householder will only be able to put out 2 black bags (or wheeled bin of equivalent size) on each collection day. This is something that Monmouth County Council has already implemented with a lot of success achieving a 63 per cent recycling rate for 2013/14.

### Option two – three week collections restricted to three black bags

Reduce the frequency of refuse collections to once every 3 weeks but there will be a restriction on the number of black bags allowed, for example a householder will only be able to put out 3 black bags (or wheeled bin of equivalent size) on each collection day. Three weekly collections is something that Gwynedd has introduced to help them achieve future statutory targets (albeit Gwynedd collect the refuse in wheeled bins).

### Option three – four week collections unrestricted black bag collection

Reduce the frequency of refuse collections to once every 4 weeks. This is something that Fife County Council in Scotland has recently implemented and will be the best method of enabling the council to achieve its 70 per cent recycling rate in 2024/25. If the council misses its target by just one per cent, it could face fines of up to £100,000. Waste would not be restricted with this option.

It is also the most environmentally friendly method of refuse collection.

**Proposal two – introducing a nappy recycling service**

The introduction of a nappy recycling service to coincide with a reduction in the collection frequency of black bags. This will help families and those who use absorbent hygiene products.

**Proposal three – Recycling black bag waste at household waste amenity sites**

The council is also considering changes to the household waste amenity sites to coincide with a new waste contract and changes to the collection service. The changes focus more on recycling so that they become Community Recycling Centres. Householders will be required to sort their black bag waste so any items that can be recycled are removed. Some of the Recycling Centres may be selected to not receive black bag waste at all and be purely provided for recycling material. This change in focus of the waste sites has been implemented successfully by Rhondda Cynon Taff Council who are now seeing recycling levels in excess of 90% at their sites.

## What other councils are doing

Gwynedd and Blaenau Gwent county councils have introduced a 3-weekly collection for domestic refuse which must be contained within wheeled bins only. Other councils have introduced a restriction to the amount of refuse collected either through the number of black bags allowed for each collection or that only refuse contained within a wheeled bin will be collected. These councils are Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Conwy, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Neath Port Talbot, and Rhondda Cynon Taff. Many other councils are also considering changing the collection frequency of domestic refuse to once every three or even four weeks.

## Why has the proposal been brought forward?

The council’s current waste contract expires in 2017 and there is a need to update the current way refuse and recycling is collected in Bridgend so that we can achieve higher recycling rates and lower the amount of refuse sent to landfill. This will ensure that the council achieves a target of 70 per cent recycling by 2024/25 and avoids any expensive fines imposed by the Welsh Government.

## What are the advantages if the proposal goes ahead?

The councils who have introduced 3-weekly refuse collections or have restricted the amount of refuse collected by placing a limit on the number of black bags collected, or by only collecting refuse contained in wheeled bins have all seen their recycling rates increase, by encouraging householders to recycle more of their waste. This will help councils achieve Welsh Government statutory recycling targets and avoid expensive fines.

Providing wheeled bins for the containment of refuse when reducing the collection frequency to once every three weeks will help to prevent problems with vermin or odour when storing refuse for longer periods.

Keeping a black bag refuse collection system but limiting the number of bags for collection will mean that there are no unsightly wheeled bins in areas where the housing isn’t suitable for the storage of wheeled bins. It will also help to increase recycling by forcing householders to recycle more of their waste.

Limiting the amount of refuse allowed for collection in black bags or wheeled bins will help save the council money on the cost of disposal and processing of the refuse.

## What are the potential disadvantages if the proposal goes ahead?

To provide a wheeled bin refuse collection service would need a capital investment cost plus ongoing replacement costs for any lost or damaged bins. There will also be some areas where the storage of wheeled bins would create issues such as terraced housing and modern linked properties.

Limiting the number of black bags allowed for refuse collection would be challenging for the council to manage especially in areas where there are communal collection areas.

## Impact of the proposal

An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening will be completed ready for when the consultation is live and will be reviewed following conclusion of this consultation (appendix 1.0).

## The consultation process

Projected timetable for procedure and proposal implementation

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Activity | Date  |
| Response deadline | 8 February 2016 |
| Final report published | 9 March 2016 |
| Report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation | 22 March 2016 |
| Potential implementation | 1 April 2017 |

The outcomes of the consultation (which will be incorporated into the proposal to the report where possible) will be reported to the Cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council. If there is a decision not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal and an alternative proposal may be sought.

If any of the proposals are accepted by Cabinet the earliest the change(s) will come into effect is 1 April 2017.

How to respond

This consultation period will begin on the **14 December 2015** and close on the **8 February 2016**. You can respond or ask further questions in the following ways:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Post: Communications, Marketing and Engagement, Bridgend County Borough Council, Raven’s Court, Wing 3, Brewery Lane, Bridgend, CF31 4AP | Tel:(01656) 643 664Email: Consultation@bridgend.gov.ukOnline: [click here](https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=144707555395) or visit [www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CHarria1%5CDocuments%5Cwww.bridgend.gov.uk%5Cconsultation) |

Alternative formats are also available upon request.

## Appendix

**Appendix 1.0 - Equality Impact Assessments (EIA).**

Initial screening to be completed by 14 December 2015.

Full EIA to be completed after 8 February 2016.