



## INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	10 SEPTEMBER 2019	5
<b>RECYCLING, BULKY WASTE AND FLYTIPPING</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

This report provides the committee with details of the current arrangements in place for the collection of recycling from the kerbside and plans to extend the range of materials collected. In addition, it offers information on the council's bulky waste collection service and provides an update on the true scale of flytipping and enforcement across the borough.

### SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Waste Data Flow; Lancashire County Council; Fylde council internal data

### WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

This information has been provided at the request of the Chairman of the Operational Management Committee to provide an update on recycling and flytipping to members.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Kathy Winstanley, Head of Health and Environment, [kathy.winstanley@fylde.gov.uk](mailto:kathy.winstanley@fylde.gov.uk), 01253 658634

### Recycling

1. Waste collection is one of the primary services delivered by the Council that has a direct impact on every household in the borough. An alternate weekly wheeled bin collection scheme is in place across the majority of Fylde with grey bin rubbish collected on one week and recycling collected the second week. An opt in chargeable garden waste collection service is also operational during recycling week.
2. This is a very popular service with high levels of customer satisfaction, very few complaints and a missed bin rate of less than 0.04% of all collections taking place. An assisted collection scheme is in place for those residents who are unable to present their own bins for collection.
3. The kerbside recycling scheme is consistent with the requirements of the national waste strategy and householders are able to recycle glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, steel and aluminium tins and cans including aerosols and foil items, as well as paper and cardboard. There is no limit to the amount of recycling a household can present and additional recycling containers are available on request.

4. The Officers of the Waste Prevention and Enforcement team place a great emphasis on waste minimisation and recycling, with promotions and education aimed at encouraging residents to recycle as much of their waste as possible and reduce the quantities of grey bin waste.
5. The recycling rate reached a peak in 2015/16 with an overall rate of 51.4% which included all kerbside materials and garden waste. Unfortunately, this has subsequently decreased to a rate of 39.9% in 2018/19. The reduction is associated with a loss of green waste tonnage due to the subscription service and a decline in the amount of paper being presented for collection as digital technology supersedes traditional newsprint. This trend is consistent with the rest of Lancashire and the national picture.
6. The latest figures provided by LCC indicate that landfill waste is increasing at a rate of 3% per annum. The cost of landfill to LCC in 2016/17 was £47m. This is estimated to rise to over £75m in 2024/25. In addition, recycling rates have dropped over the last few years and Lancashire is now recycling less than half (45.7%) of the total waste.
7. The County (the disposal authority) is actively trying to reduce the amount of black bin waste going to landfill and has recently provided districts with funding options as an incentive to introduce new schemes to reduce this waste stream.
8. Fylde received funding to carry out a review of properties with 2 or more grey bins to establish if circumstances had changed since the extra bin was originally approved. Additional grey bins are only considered for households of 5 or more permanent residents or in exceptional circumstances (children in nappies or medical conditions), who are regularly producing additional non-recyclable waste which cannot be accommodated within one grey bin. Since the review commenced we have removed 195\* bins, approved 418 properties and refused 62 applications \*this is equivalent to diverting 97 tonnes of waste from landfill per annum. 846 properties are on the list for review in the second phase of the project and once complete, the approved properties will be added to the Bartec in cab system so that the crews know which bins are authorised for collection.
9. In an effort to boost the recycling rate and reduce the amount of single use plastics going to landfill, LCC has changed the processing operations to extract more plastic at the recycling plant. In addition, they are working to accept plastic pots, tubs and trays, as well as plastic bottles, from autumn 2019. This will extend the range of materials to include yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, meat packaging etc. but will not include plastic film or bags. A comprehensive communication campaign will accompany these changes, challenging residents to recycle up to 7,000 tonnes of pots, tubs and trays between October 2019 and October 2020.
10. The Government is in the process of conducting a review of the national waste strategy and it is predicted that weekly food waste collections will be mandated from 2023, separate to garden waste. Food and drink cartons and potentially plastic film may also be considered for inclusion from 2023 and Fylde will work alongside other Lancashire districts to introduce these changes with the minimum disruption to residents.

## **Bulky Waste**

11. Fylde Council works in partnership with Bulky Waste Collectors to collect, reuse and recycle larger household items which cannot go in the wheeled bins. This service is only for domestic premises in Fylde and businesses need to make suitable arrangements for the collection of trade waste.
12. Collections can be carried out from within a resident's property at an agreed time. The items must be easily accessible in order to be removed, where applicable items must be disconnected, unplugged, defrosted and empty. They must also be able to fit through doorways without dismantling.
13. Items are collected in categories as follows:
  - Up to 3 items – £21.60\*
  - 4 to 10 items – £43.25\*
  - fridges, freezers and fridge freezers – £43.25 each
  - integrated fridge freezer (non-commercial) – £43.25 each
  - sheds (maximum size 6' x 6' / 1.83m x 1.83m) – £49.50 each

- over 10 items – £80.95 per hour (minimum charge of 1 hour paid and subsequent hours or part thereof will be billed retrospectively once the job is complete)\*

\*Fridge / freezers are not collected as part of the up to 3, 4-10 or over 10 items categories.

14. Certain items cannot be collected as part of the bulky waste collection service including: musical equipment, motor vehicle parts, asbestos, gym equipment, gas bottles and paint cans, fluorescent tubes, gypsum and plasterboard; in addition to bulky DIY waste. These materials will need to be collected by a licensed collector or take to the tip (Saltcotes Road, Lytham).
15. The bulky waste collection service is extremely popular with residents with high levels of customer satisfaction and repeat custom. Between April 2018 and March 2019, Fylde residents made use of the bulky waste collection service as follows:
  - Up to 3 items = 1349
  - 4 to 10 items = 194
  - Over 10 items = 6 jobs
  - Garden sheds = 3
16. 23.2 tonnes of bulky items were recycled or reused from households through this service in 2018/19.

### **Flytipping**

17. Under Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, all occupiers of domestic properties are required to take reasonable measures to ensure that waste produced on their property is only transferred to an authorised person. An authorised person is defined in law and includes the council waste collection service (i.e. bulky waste collection), a registered waste carrier (i.e. an authorised skip company) or an operator of a registered site (i.e. household waste recycling centre at Saltcotes Road). This responsible waste management reduces the risk of domestic waste ending up in the hands of those who would fly tip it.
18. Nationally two thirds of fly-tipping incidents involve household waste, often as a result of an individual breaching their duty of care to ensure their waste is taken away by an authorised carrier.
19. In all investigations of breaches of household waste duty of care, individuals are given the opportunity to demonstrate they took reasonable steps to determine the person that took their waste was authorised to do so. If fly-tipped waste is traced to an individual, and they are unable to identify who took their waste, or the carrier that they identify is unauthorised, then it is reasonable to believe they have not met their duty of care and appropriate enforcement action will be taken, including the issuing of fixed penalty notices if deemed appropriate.
20. Fly tipping is a significant problem to local communities and a risk to the environment. It is a drain on council resources and undermines legitimate waste businesses, where unscrupulous operators undercut those that operate within the law. The costs to local authorities of investigating, bringing prosecutions, clearance and disposal of fly tipping are considerable.
21. FPNs are an effective and visible way of dealing with low level environmental crime provided they are used sensibly, enforced fairly and are seen as a reasonable response to genuine problems. The council has already approved the successful use of FPNs, as an alternative to prosecutions, when dealing with other environmental crimes including littering, dog fouling and small-scale fly tipping vehicles.
22. Of the 641 incidents of fly tipping in Fylde Borough during 2018/2019, 246 (54%) were found to be household waste. Whenever evidence was found within these incidents of household waste deposited illegally, the investigation found that there was a failing in the duty of care and action was taken against the perpetrators.

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
<b>No. of Incidents</b>	601	652	623	641

23. Figures are roughly the same for the last few years. The most common fly tipped material is “household Waste” which ranges from single items such as a mattress or piece of furniture to large loads such as full house clearances. Commercial waste only accounts for 14% (18/19)
24. The hotspot areas in the borough are Wildings Lane, St Annes, the lay by on Mythop Road, Staining and Brays Lane, Lytham.
25. All incidents of fly tipping are investigated where it is likely that evidence will be found before an instruction is sent to the depot to clear the material. This is done as quickly as possible to deter other offenders from adding to the flytipping. It is quite common for a single black sack to multiply into a full van load of flytipped items if left unchecked for a few days.
26. Obtaining sufficient evidence for a prosecution has been difficult – the test for the evidence is beyond all reasonable doubt and we are often reliant on members of the public to provide witness statements – the majority of which do not wish to do so.
27. The option to serve a fixed penalty notice for fly tipping for “low level” incidents such as single items or small amounts (car boot size) has proved very successful and since May 2017 7 FPNs at a total of £1400 have been issued. The standard FPN is £400 with the option to reduce to £200 if paid with 10 working days.