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**CHANGES TO REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Members on the introduction of both wheeled bins and the more recent Revised Weekly Collection service.

**Summary**

2. There have been two major changes to the refuse and recycling collection service in the past 18 months with the introduction of wheeled bins in June 2013 and the Revised Weekly Collection in October 2014.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that Members note the content of the report.

**Paul Wildsmith  
Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources**

**Background Papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Ian Thompson : Extension 6628  
LCD

S17 Crime and Disorder	It is not considered that there will be any impact on crime and disorder as a result of this report.
Health and Well Being	There is no impact on health and wellbeing as a result of this report.
Carbon Impact	There is no Carbon impact as a result of this report.
Diversity	There is no impact on diversity as a result of this report
Wards Affected	All Wards will be affected.
Groups Affected	All Groups will be affected.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report has no impact on the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This report does not constitute a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not considered an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	There is no impact on One Darlington: Perfectly Placed.
Efficiency	The outcome of this report does not impact on the Council's efficiency agenda.

## MAIN REPORT

### **Wheeled Bins**

4. The Council introduced a wheeled bin collection service for refuse in June 2013. Almost all of the properties across the Borough were issued with a wheeled bin with only a very small percentage staying on black sack collection, approximately 130, due the nature of their property not having anywhere to store a wheeled bin or nowhere to place out for collection.
5. Following an initial bedding-in period, generally overall the implementation of wheeled bins was extremely successful and there has been an improvement in the cleanliness of back lanes in particular as a result of containment of refuse on collection day.

### **Revised Weekly Collection Service**

6. As part of the MTFP for 2014, Member agreed to implement a Revised Weekly Collection service whereby refuse would be collected one week and recycling the following, saving £400,000 per annum. The majority of residents received an additional wheeled bin with internal caddy. Properties where it was difficult for the new vehicles to access received a larger box for recyclable material.
7. The new service was introduced in October 2014 and has now been operational for just over five months. Again, following an initial bedding-in period, the service has now settled down as the final teething issues are being worked through.

8. Generally the overall implementation of the Revised Weekly Collection service was extremely successful and residents have accepted the change and embraced the need to separate material from general household for recycling. The £100,000 saving identified in the MTFP for 2014/15 will be achieved and the ongoing annual saving of £400,000 for 2015/16 will also delivered.

## **Performance**

9. Since the introduction of the Revised Weekly Collection service, the amount of material collected at kerbside has risen. For the same period, October to February, from 1,652 tonnes in 2013/14 to 2,845 tonnes in 2014/15, an increase of 72%. It is anticipated that with a full year of operation and further publicity, overall recycling tonnages will be in excess of 7,000 tonnes per annum.
10. Kerbside collection is obviously only one part of the overall Council's recycling rate and for the first half-year, April to September, the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting was 36.3%. The national reporting system has changed from this quarter and unfortunately figures are not available at the time of writing this report but it is hoped they will be available to report at the meeting.

## **Fly Tipping**

11. With the implementation of wheeled bins, Members were concerned about the potential for fly tipping to increase. Residents could not just put out anything they wanted on collection day as it needed to be contained within the wheeled bin.
12. There are two classifications for fly tipping that are used nationally and that all Councils have to report through a national database. Small fly tips, which are generally classed as bin bag size, and Larger fly tips, which are generally multiple items from a small van and larger. Numbers of Larger fly tips in the past three years have varied; in 2012 there were 159, in 2013, 258 and in 2014, 107. Generally there is no particular pattern to Larger fly tips, however the Council do take a proactive approach with regard to prosecution and will take cases straight to Court where evidence exists.
13. Smaller fly tips, bin bag size, have risen in the last three years from 2,154 in 2012 to 2,882 in 2014, which is an increase of approximately 34%. This is not surprising as prior to wheeled bins, residents could put out as much waste as they wanted to on a collection day on the old black bag system, however once wheeled bins were introduced anything that is placed out for collection that is not within the wheeled bin is now classed as a fly tip and will not be removed as part of the refuse collection service.

## Conclusion

14. In the last 18 months there have been two significant changes to the refuse and recycling collection service with the introduction of wheeled bins in June 2013 and Revised Weekly Collection service in October 2014. With two such significant changes to one of the only services every resident receives on a regular basis, there was always going to be a number of teething issues and some residents unhappy with the new service. However, these two changes have been implemented successfully across the Borough and the majority of residents have adapted to the new collection service.