

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Environment and Transportation

approval noting

Ref AM/RS

Date 12/02/20

Service Changes Within Waste Service

From Head of Regulatory Services and Waste Solutions

Email mcphersona@northlan.gov.uk **Telephone** 01236 638575

Executive Summary

The report provides an update on the ongoing service changes within the Council's waste service to reduce overall costs and increase recycling.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Environment and Transportation Committee:

1. Supports the approach to address the problem of overloaded bins; and
2. Supports the transfer of costs for bins for new build properties to the developer and remit this change to the Council's Planning Committee.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities

Ambition statement (17) Ensure we keep our environment clean, safe, and attractive

1. Background

- 1.1 The current Waste Solutions service continues to undergo transformational change in order to deliver a more effective and efficient service. However, despite such changes the service is still faced with an ongoing cost pressure (£780K) principally from increased house building and rising costs across the waste industry.
- 1.2 In order to address these cost pressures a number of proposals are now being considered by the Service and are contained within the report below.

2. Report

Overloaded Bins

- 2.1 The Service will start a pilot project within certain areas to target those properties who continually present overloaded residual bins. These are bins whose lids are almost at 90° due to the levels of waste being placed in the bins. Bins in such a condition are not capable of being collected safely and bags have to be removed before being emptied. If the bags are left on the street then this provides further complaints to the Council and if they are placed back in the bin then the Council receives a call to say that the bin has been missed. Where such bins are presented, it is also highly likely that the residents are not recycling to the extent that they should be. By moving recyclable materials from the black bin and into one of the three recycling bins will not only increase the Council's recycling levels but also reduce the overall disposal costs for the Council.
- 2.2 As part of the pilot, on the first occasion, the bin will be emptied including any excess bags, however the bin will then be tagged with a warning that the bin was presented overloaded. Further to this an advisory letter will then also be issued to the resident which will include information and further contact details on how to reduce the levels of waste being placed within the residual bin or indeed it may be the case that the bin is servicing a large family that needs additional capacity. If following this additional information and assistance, the same bin is again presented as overloaded, then the bin will not be emptied and tagged to advise of this.
- 2.3 This pilot will run for a period of three months within two defined areas and all local Councillors will be advised in advance of this commencing. The areas to be selected initially will be those where there is general compliance and where it is envisaged that the pilot will have a positive impact. It is accepted that there will be worse areas for overloaded bins, but the purpose of the pilot will be to determine what improvements could be made before consideration of extending the pilot to other Council areas. The gradual roll out across the Council area will coincide with the implementation of digital technology which will allow the recording of such incidents. Similarly, should there be a decision to extend the initiative, then all elected members will be notified in advance.

New Bin Charges Passed to Developer

- 2.4 At present any resident moving to a new build property within the Council area has to order the required number of bins for the collection within that area but only pays for the cost of the residual bin. The Council must therefore pay for the cost of the

purchase and delivery of the remaining three recycling bins (approximately £90). Over the last five years approximately 5,000 new homes have been built which has resulted in a cost to the service of £450K – around £90K per annum.

- 2.5 It is expected that this increased housing growth will continue to at least the level detailed above and as a result the Service will continue to incur this ongoing cost. To mitigate this cost pressure it is proposed that the cost for supply of all bins to a new build property will be passed to the developer and this will be contained within the planning consent for such developments. This in turn will also prevent the new tenant having to occupy a new property but then be faced with the additional expense and inconvenience of having to order and await delivery of the new bins.
- 2.6 If approved, details of this proposal will be remitted to the Council's Planning Committee as this charge will be integrated to the planning process of all future new build development.

3. Equality and Diversity

3.1 Fairer Scotland Duty

- 3.1.1 There are no implications from this report.

3.2 Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.2.1 There are no implications from this report.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Impact

- 4.1.1 If implemented in full the above proposals will result in an overall reduction in cost of around £90K per annum which in turn will go towards the ongoing cost pressures being experienced by the Service.

4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact

- 4.2.1 No significant impacts.

4.3 Environmental Impact

- 4.3.1 The proposal above relevant to the overloaded bins should see more waste transferred from the black residual bin into the recycling bin.

4.4 Risk Impact

- 4.4.1 No significant risks have been identified.

5. Measures of success

- 5.1 Introduction of management actions which go towards delivering a balanced budget position for the Service.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew McPherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "McPherson".

Andrew McPherson
Head of Regulatory and Waste Solutions