

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DELEGATED DECISION
Councillor B Thomas, Portfolio Holder for Waste Management

March 2014

REPORT AUTHOR: Ashley Collins, Waste Services Manager

**SUBJECT: Charge for Domestic Purple Sacks
Charge for Domestic Wheeled Bin Replacement as a
result of damage by the householder
Sale of Domestic Black Sacks
Charge for Domestic Garden Waste Sacks**

REPORT FOR: Decision

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Purple sacks are provided free of charge for the collection of domestic waste where wheeled bins are not suitable. The free supply is limited to the equivalent capacity of a wheeled bin collected fortnightly. Householders on either purple sacks or a wheeled bin are able to purchase extra purple sacks at a price which is intended to cover collection and disposal costs. As the intention is to reduce residual waste, it is proposed to increase these charges in line with the rates charged to Charity Shops.
- 1.2 Where it is clearly evident that a wheeled bin has been damaged or lost by the actions or inactions of the householder, including any damage as a result of prohibited waste being placed in the container, it is proposed that the householder is charged for the cost of the replacement.
- 1.3 As the new kerbside collection system will be completely rolled out during 2014/15, it is proposed that black sacks are no longer sold by the Council. If householders wish to use sacks inside the wheeled bins they will be able to purchase them from commercial outlets.
- 1.4 Garden waste sacks (orange tinted) are sold for the public to put this waste out for collection with the residual waste. As this is landfilled, alternative methods that go for composting are promoted (home composting or receptacles at Community Recycling Sites and Household Waste Recycling Centres). In order to further disincentivise the landfilling of organic waste it is proposed to increase the price for these sacks by 11%.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 Charge for Domestic Purple Sacks

- 2.1.1 With the rollout of the new kerbside recycling scheme, households are provided with either a 180 litre wheeled bin for residual waste to be collected fortnightly or the equivalent capacity in purple sacks. Residual waste will not be collected in any other receptacle. The rationale is to increase the use of the recycling containers provided in order to achieve the Statutory Recycling Targets imposed by the Welsh Government and avoid financial penalties for not doing so.
- 2.1.2 Provision is made for households in exceptional circumstances, for example with children in nappies, the requirement to dispose of incontinence pads, or where there are 6 or more people living at the same address. In these cases a larger wheeled bin or additional purple sacks are provided at no cost to the householder.
- 2.1.3 If households do not fall into any of the categories in 2.1.2 and still provide excess residual waste they are able to either take it to a Household Waste Recycling Centre or purchase additional purple sacks. These are priced to cover the cost of collection and disposal and encourage residents to use the recycling facilities provided. The Council's Waste Awareness Team is available to work with householders in order to reduce the amount of refuse going to landfill.
- 2.1.4 With the cost of landfill increasing year on year with gate fees and landfill tax, it is proposed that the cost of additional purple sacks is raised accordingly to match the cost of the sacks currently available to charity shops. This would be an increase of 27.5% to £45.91 per roll of 26 or £22.96 per roll of 13.

2.2 Charge for Domestic Wheeled Bin Replacement

- 2.2.1 Wheeled bins are currently provided to householders in place of black sacks that were previously issued. Replacements are currently provided free of charge. It is proposed that this cost is recouped and a reasonable charge of £36 per bin is made where it is clearly evident that the bin has been damaged or lost by the actions or inactions of the householder, including any damage as a result of prohibited waste being placed in the container.

2.3 Sale of Domestic Black Sacks

- 2.3.1 Prior to the rollout of the new kerbside service, a roll of 52 black sacks were issued to each household, with any additional requirements being the responsibility of the householder to purchase. The Council has traditionally sold sacks at the Customer Service Points, but the householder has been free to purchase and use sacks from any commercial outlet.
- 2.3.2 The rollout of the new kerbside service is due to be completed in 2014/15 and at this point there will be no further collections of residual waste in black sacks. It would give out confused messages if these sacks were to be still sold by the Council. Furthermore if householders wish to use sacks within their wheeled bins they will be able to purchase sacks from commercial outlets such as

supermarkets or hardware stores. The Council is currently reducing non-essential cash payments in order to reduce the cost of face to face transactions and the administration charges for transacting the cash. It is therefore proposed that the Council ceases to sell sacks once stocks are exhausted following completion of the rollout.

2.4 Charge for Garden Waste Sacks

- 2.4.1 Provision is made for householders to compost their garden waste at no cost to them through the network of Community Recycling Sites and Household Waste Recycling Centres. The Council also sells compost bins to the public at cost to encourage home composting, these are charged at £10 if collected from a Household Waste Recycling Centres or £15 if delivered by the Council.
- 2.4.2 In the event that the householder is not able or chooses not to utilise these facilities, the Council does provide a kerbside collection service at a cost of £0.90 per sack. As this material is collected with the residual waste and hence landfilled, the price is intended to cover the landfill cost and also incentivise use of the garden waste collection points where possible. With rising landfill gate fees and tax, this price will no longer cover costs and hence an increase of 11% to £1.00 per sack is proposed.
- 2.4.3 This rise would still mean that the cost to the customer is less than that charged for the purple residual waste sacks in order to take into account the needs of elderly people with a garden but no car who may have difficulty accessing the collection points. Approximately 2000 sacks were sold from April to September 2013.

3.0 Powys Change Plan

- 3.1 The proposal is consistent with the Change Plan objectives for climate change and increasing the amount of waste recycled necessary to meet Welsh Government targets.

4.0 Options Considered/Available

- 4.1 To maintain prices at the current levels, although this would not realise the opportunity to recoup costs. To continue to sell black sacks with the attendant administrative costs.
- 4.2 To increase prices for purple residual sacks, introduce a charge for replacement of wheeled bins damaged or lost by the householder, increase the cost of garden waste sacks and cease the sale of black sacks.

5.0 Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 5.1 The preferred choice is to increase the charges as proposed. The schedule of rates is detailed in Appendix I.

6.0 Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder,/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc

6.1 Maximising recycling from the domestic waste stream will assist the Council in realising its climate change objectives as well as achieving the Welsh Government's Statutory Recycling Targets.

6.2 The proposal does not impact on Equalities, Crime and Disorder, Welsh Language and other policies.

7.0 Children and Young People's Impact Statement - Safeguarding and Wellbeing

7.1 The proposal does not impact on securing the safety and protection of children and young people and supporting the promotion of their wellbeing.

8.0 Local Members

8.1 All Members will have households in their wards that will be affected.

9.0 Other Front Line Services

9.1 The proposals should have a minor effect on the quantity of residual waste put out for collection which over time may reduce vehicle requirements.

10.0 Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)

10.1 Legal – we are content with the recommendations

10.2 Finance – The Service Accountant has reviewed the increases put forward in this report which will help to recover increases in costs and the savings target which the Service is expected to achieve. In recent years the costs associated with providing black sacks to cash offices and other Local Authority outlets has made this activity prohibitively expensive. Such outlets are not able to carry large stocks which can result in frequent deliveries of relatively small amounts.

11.0 Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

11.1 The proposal does not impact on the Local service Board or other partners.

12.0 Communications

12.1 There is an ongoing communications and awareness campaign to encourage householders to recycle their waste and hence minimise the impact of these proposals.

13.0 Statutory Officers

13.1 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report."

13.2 The Strategic Director Resources (Section 151 Officer) notes the comments made by finance.

14.0 Members' Interests

14.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If the Portfolio Holder has an interest he should declare it and complete the relevant notification form and refer the matter to Cabinet for decision.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
As from 1st April 2014, charges for domestic purple sacks are increased as per the table contained in Appendix I.	To recoup costs of collection and disposal and encourage residents to recycle their waste thus contributing to the WG Statutory Recycling Targets
As from 1st April 2014 a charge is introduced for domestic wheeled bin replacement where the householder is responsible for loss or damage as per the table in Appendix I	To recoup costs of replacement
That the sale of black sacks is ceased following full rollout of new kerbside recycling scheme in accordance with paragraph 2.3.2 of the report	To avoid promoting a confused message and reduce administrative costs.
As from 1st April 2014 charges for garden waste sacks are increased as per the table in Appendix I	To recoup costs of collection and disposal and encourage residents to recycle their waste thus contributing to the WG Statutory Recycling Targets

Relevant Policy (ies):	Powys Change Plan		
Within Policy:	Yes	Within Budget:	Yes

Relevant Local Member(s):	All Members
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Ashley Collins
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	1st April 2014

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
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Appendix I – Proposed Schedule of Price Increases

	Charge	
	2013/14	2014/15 proposed
Domestic Purple sacks (including VAT and delivery)	£36.10 – roll of 26 £18.05 – roll of 13	£45.91 – roll of 26 £22.96 – roll of 13
Domestic Wheeled Bin Replacement where the householder is responsible for the damage or loss (including VAT and delivery)	n/a	£36.00
Garden Waste Sacks (including VAT)	£0.90 per sack from CSP £10.72 – roll of 10 delivered	£1.00 per sack from CSP £12.00 – roll of 10 delivered