

At the Council Meeting, the Provost accepted this item as urgent business.

**THIS PAPER RELATES TO  
ITEM 8(a)  
ON THE AGENDA**

**CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL**

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**Report to Clackmannanshire Council**

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**Date of Meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

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**Subject: Blue Box Kerbside Collection**

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**Report by: Councillor Craig Holden (Convenor Place)**

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**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. To provide Council with an update on the withdrawal of blue box kerbside collection service and address community concerns arising from this decision.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. Council is requested to note:
- 2.1.1. The significant public concern regarding the Council decision to withdraw blue box kerbside collection;
- 2.1.2. The work which has been undertaken to implement the decision of Council on 8th March 2018;
- 2.1.3. The delay in the roll out of new service arrangements;
- 2.1.4. The continued commitment of the Council to meet its recycling objectives;
- 2.1.5. The Place Committee will consider a detailed report on the matter of recycling provision at its next meeting, currently scheduled for 23 May 2019.

**3.0 Background**

- 3.1. The implementation of the National Charter for Household Recycling, introduced in 2016, was intended to promote a consistent approach to waste and recycling across Scotland. There remains, however, disparity in how waste, and in particular glass, is collected by different Authorities. Of the 29 Scottish Mainland Authorities, the breakdown of collection methods for glass is as follows:
- 9 – in bins with other recycle
  - 9 – box collections as per Clackmannanshire
  - 12 – recycling points/glass banks
- 3.2. Councils have a statutory duty to provide a regular collection of household waste to domestic properties, and provide facilities where practical for

households to recycle material in that waste where possible. Since 2014 it has also been a statutory requirement to provide households other than those classified as rural properties, with a food collection service. Councils have no statutory duty to collect glass or garden waste.

3.3. The current recycling arrangements in Clackmannanshire are as follows:

- Garden waste service. Collection every three weeks.
- Kerbside box – glass, textiles, small electricals. Collection weekly
- Blue bin for dry mixed recycling. Collection fortnightly.
- Food waste collection. Collection weekly.

3.4. At its meeting on 8 March 2018 Council decided to agree a saving amounting to £159,000 for the financial year 2018/19 to stop the kerbside collection box but to continue to provide a weekly food waste collection using purpose built vehicles. Additional glass banks would be provided in settlements and villages to complement existing provision and meet conditions listed in Section 3.4.1. of the National Recycling Charter e.g. a bank to be available within 1km of all residential properties in urban areas. Other services would continue unchanged.

3.5. This saving was one of a suite of policy savings totalling £2.931m which were agreed in order to allow the Council to set a balanced budget. The budget decisions were taken in accordance with the requirement to reduce expenditure and redesign service provision in the context of the need to ensure financial sustainability. It was also taken following extensive consultation including an on-line public survey, and seven public consultation events.

#### **4.0 Community Concerns**

4.1. Community feedback indicates that there are four key public concerns regarding the Council decision to withdraw the blue box kerbside collection service:

- The impact upon elderly people and those with disabilities;
- Increase in fly tipping;
- Insufficient communication;
- A reduced Council commitment to recycling.

##### The impact upon elderly people and those with disabilities

4.2. As part of the budget decision in 2018 Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) were undertaken which identified that people with age and disability protected characteristics were most likely to be impacted by proposals. The assessment classified the level of impact, described the nature of the impact and considered whether any changes would require to be made. The budget paper for the 8<sup>th</sup> March indicated that the proposals were assessed as having low impacts and that many respondents were supportive of alternative service delivery arrangements being implemented. It was recognised, however, that any proposal would require to be balanced with mechanisms to ensure that environmental problems such as fly-tipping did not escalate.

- 4.3. Notwithstanding the information contained within the EQIA and the subsequent budget paper, it is acknowledged that additional measures will require to be considered in order to mitigate the impact of this saving on elderly people and those with disabilities and this will form part of a paper to be considered by the Place Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019.

#### Increase in fly tipping

- 4.4. It is felt that the introduction of alternative models of collection coupled with measures designed to mitigate the impact upon vulnerable groups will reduce the likelihood of fly tipping.

#### Insufficient Communication

- 4.5. As with all budget decisions which have a community impact, the withdrawal of the blue box kerbside collection was included in the 2018/19 Communications Forward Plan and was carried forward onto the 2019/20 Communications Forward Plan. The Plan notes that Communications anticipated significant feedback to the implementation of this change and lists a range of communications mechanisms to be used to inform residents ahead of the change.

- 4.6. In preparation for the withdrawal of the blue box kerbside recycling service the following actions have been undertaken by the Communications Team within Clackmannanshire Council:

- Written, designed and professionally printed an A5 flyer to be distributed to every household in Clackmannanshire.
- Drafted web page updates to inform residents of the changes.
- Drafted Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) with the service providing Answers. These FAQs will be published on the website. They also assist the Communications and Customer Service staff when responding to questions from the public whether by email, telephone or social media.
- Created an interactive online map for customers showing where the new community glass bins are located – work on this map is ongoing as the locations of the new bottle banks are finalised.
- Created a social media campaign.
- Drafted a news release for the local media.

- 4.7. Members of the Communications Team are in daily contact with members of staff within the Waste Service on this issue and this will continue in order to develop the messages and content required to deliver an effective and efficient communications campaign.

#### A reduced Council commitment to recycling

- 4.8. Clackmannanshire Council remain committed to its recycling objectives having signed up to the National Charter for Household Recycling (NCHR) in April 2017. There are no plans to cease the recycling of glass, textiles or electrical goods. Alternative arrangements have been introduced following the decision of Council to withdraw of the kerbside collection service. This includes the provision of bottle banks and the recycling of textiles and electricals at Forthbank Recycling Centre.

## 5.0 Governance

- 5.1. The decision to postpone the roll out of the new service was taken in response to Community concerns and to ensure the appropriate siting of bottle banks. It should be noted, however, that unachieved savings have been regularly reported through the appropriate channels with the most recent report being considered by the Place Committee in March 2019.
- 5.2. The next meeting of the Place Committee is scheduled for 23 May 2019. At this meeting a report will be presented which will cover the Council's plans for the implementation of any changes to recycling provision in Clackmannanshire, including options on the way forward, a full financial assessment (including the identification of any compensatory required) and an implementation and communication plan.

## 6.0 Sustainability Implications

- 6.1. The sustainability impacts of the decision to withdraw kerbside recycling were considered as part of the budget process in March 2018. However these will be considered again in the forthcoming report to the Place Committee in May 2019.

## 7.0 Resource Implications

### 7.1. *Financial Details*

- 7.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes X

- 7.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes X

### 7.4. *Staffing*

## 8.0 Exempt Reports

- 8.1. Is this report exempt? Yes  (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

## 9.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box )

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all   
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

**10.0 Equalities Impact**

10.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes  No

**11.0 Legality**

11.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes  X  
This is a report for noting only.

**12.0 Appendices**

12.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None

**13.0 Background Papers**

13.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes  (please list the documents below) No

**General Services Revenue and Capital Budget 2018/19 report for Council on 8 March 2018**

**Financial Performance 2018/19 – December Outturn report for the Place Committee 21 March 2019**

**Author(s)**

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Councillor Craig Holden	Councillor	01259 452283

**Approved by**

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Councillor Craig Holden	Councillor	