

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET – 7 FEBRUARY 2008

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING ENFORCEMENT POLICY

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Wirral Council are currently rolling out recycling services across the whole district. The new kerbside services require the householder to separate recyclates from other household waste. Early indications from the main roll-out, completed in June 2007 suggest that the majority of householders have embraced the new scheme and the amount of waste recycled has increased significantly, with 38% of Wirral's household waste being recycled in September 2007. Wirral is expected to have an average recycling performance of 30% for 2007/8. However, environmental and financial problems caused by householders who have not engaged appropriately with the new scheme must be controlled if Wirral is to secure the longer-term success of the scheme. This report seeks Cabinet approval for the Waste and Recycling Enforcement Policy set out in section 3.0 of this report.
- 1.2 In response to questions raised at Environment Committee, additional information has been appended to the report as Appendix 2 and this includes a suggested minor amendment to the Early Payment Period from 7 to 14 days.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Legislation

Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act, 1990 enables the waste collection authority to specify the following (subject to the serving of a notice):

- Day of collection
- Frequency of collection
- Number, size and type of receptacles provided
- The waste streams allowed in each type of waste container.

The introduction of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (Section 47A) enables Local Authorities to issue fixed penalty notices to an individual who is guilty of contravening the legislation. This gives the guilty person an opportunity to discharge the contravention by paying a fine, and hence avoiding court action, and possibly a larger fine. The fine level can be set by the Local Authority within the DEFRA guidelines (£60-£110 with an early payment option).

2.2 Environmental Issues

It is intended that the legislation be used to enforce a number of waste issues, in order to encourage residents to manage their waste in a responsible manner and use the recycling schemes available to them. Failure to ensure residents comply with Section 46 will lead to increased environmental and financial problems and an increase in the number of complaints received from the public.

Section 46 should be used to enforce the following waste issues:

2.2.1 Bins regularly left out on a Public Highway or Open Space after Collection Day

Under the section 46 notice, residents are informed of their scheduled collection day. Bins left out for excessive periods of time:

- Can cause obstruction to pedestrians
- Are vulnerable to vandalism and theft
- Can be accessed by traders or other households leading to contamination of the bin, or excess fly tipped waste being left.
- May cause a security breach to households where bins are used to gain access to private property.
- Can be used as catalysts for larger and more dangerous fires, that can have fatal consequences.

2.2.2 Deliberate Contamination of Recycling Receptacles

If incorrect items are placed in a recycling bin there are a number of consequences, depending upon the extent of contamination and the types of waste presented:

- Rejected loads
Once the bin wagon load is tipped at the receiving site it is checked for contamination. If there is too much contamination in the load then the whole load may be rejected. The new MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) at Bidston has stringent procedures in place at the reception hall and several loads from the recent rollout have been rejected. The composting facilities have even tighter regulations. A whole load of garden waste taken to the Windrow Composting site at Hapsford will be rejected if broken glass or food waste is spotted in the loads. This means an entire load (around 5 tonne at a time) has to go to landfill. This currently costs the council tax payers of Wirral significant landfill costs and could mean additional fines of up to £750/load if Wirral do not meet landfill diversion targets by 2010. In addition to this, the Merseyside Waste Partnership (all Merseyside Local Authorities) benefit from the sale of recovered material sent for recycling which helps to fund the running costs of the MRF.

- **Damage to MRF**

Items such as car jacks, concrete blocks and videotapes have ended up on the MRF conveyor belt at Bidston so far. If not spotted at the first “picking station” these items can cause extensive damage to valuable equipment and would also create down time at the MRF. The waste destined for the MRF is only allowed to be stored for a limited period of time. A 2-day shut down could lead to hundreds of tonnes of recyclable waste being sent to landfill, or the Merseyside districts would have to pay additional transport and gate fees to use other MRF facilities across the country.

- **Fly tipped waste**

If a recycling container has excessive contaminants in it, and this is spotted by a waste collection operative, the bin will not be emptied. An enforcement policy is therefore necessary to deal with these cases in a consistent manner in order to reduce the likelihood of waste being fly-tipped, and avoid confrontation between residents and the bin crews.

2.2.3 Side Waste (additional waste presented by the side of the bin)

By moving to alternate weekly collections of residual waste and recyclable waste, most households are only able to keep their waste contained within a bin if they use both the recycling container and residual bin. It is likely that households producing side waste on a regular basis are not separating out their recyclates or have inadequate bin provision for the number of people residing at their address.

By enforcing a side waste ban, Wirral MBC will:

- Improve the environmental quality of the area by reducing litter escaping from loose sacks;
- Encourage the use of the kerbside recycling scheme and maximise Wirral’s recycling performance;
- Over time, encourage waste minimisation habits amongst householders;
- Reduce the risk of injury to waste collection crews, as manual handling of loose waste will be minimised.

A side-waste ban could also be enforced using other legislation, such as Section 33 Environmental Protection Act 1990 or issuing fixed penalty fines for littering, depending on the size of the discarded waste.

Many Local Authorities have also introduced a “closed lid” policy to prevent waste being piled up on top of a bin and to reduce the amount of litter caused through waste blowing out of opened containers. As the paper and packaging scheme requires the waste to be presented “loose” in the bin, it is even more important to ensure bins are presented with the lid closed. This will also help keep card and paper recyclate dry in bad weather.

2.2.4 Ban on Garden Waste in the Residual Bin (where a household has been offered a kerbside collection of garden waste)

Wirral MBC has offered the majority of households with gardens a kerbside collection of garden waste. Some residents have declined the scheme as they produce little garden waste due to home composting, or would prefer to take their waste to the household waste recycling centres. Some residents have declined the scheme, as they do not wish to have the additional bin taking up space on their property.

By enforcing a ban on garden waste from being presented in the residual bin, Wirral Council will:

- Avoid landfill fines: garden waste is biodegradable, and as such, garden waste ending up in landfill may expose Wirral Council to heavy fines from the government (Up to £150 per tonne);
- Improve recycling performance through use of the kerbside scheme;
- Encourage waste minimisation through home composting.

2.2.5 Ban on Recyclable Items being placed in the Residual Bin (where a household has been placed on the kerbside recycling service)

- Banning paper and packaging recyclables in the residual bin may lead to an increase in recycling across the district.

Under a Section 46 notice, it is possible to pursue residents who put recyclable paper and packaging in their residual bin. However, my Department recognise that the paper and packaging recycling scheme is complex and requires a degree of understanding to be able to follow it with 100% accuracy. Therefore, officers recommend that households should not be issued with Fixed Penalty Notices if some recyclable items are found in their residual waste unless there is strong evidence to suggest the resident makes little or no effort to recycle and there are no reasonable grounds for failing to comply with Section 46. This may be reviewed at a later date, once the scheme has been running in the whole district for at least another 12 months.

2.3 Education and Awareness

Any use of the legislation will be used in conjunction with and following awareness raising activities. My Department recognise that behavioural change is necessary amongst many residents in order to comply with the legislation, and that information, assistance and time is required to encourage residents to change their habits.

The council has allocated an additional £85,000 per year for 2006/7 and 2007/8 in order to promote the new recycling schemes. WMBC have also been granted £153,000 from the Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) to enhance the awareness-raising programme.

The following education and awareness initiatives have taken place pre-and post implementation of the recycling schemes:

- Every recycling container/ bin supports an information sticker outlining what items can be placed in the bin;
- Every household has received notification of road show dates, prior to receiving their new paper and packaging recycling bins. Further roadshows were advertised post roll-out in September;
- Every household has received instructional information for all new recycling schemes which affect them;
- Every household has received a calendar outlining the residual and paper and packaging collection dates. A new calendar was delivered to each household before Christmas, along with tips for recycling over the Christmas period;
- Additional information, and leaflet/ booklet downloads are available on the Council website;
- The Council has, and will continue to secure space in the local newspapers to highlight the scheme. A front cover “wrap” around the Wirral Globe went to all residents in September;
- The WRAP funding supported two additional officers for 12 months (Recycling Champions) who visited households that requested additional support or were identified as using the scheme incorrectly. The officers gave guidance and advise to residents;
- Targeted advertising campaigns will be launched post implementation, as a result of carrying out participation surveys in different demographic areas of the borough;
- A series of advice / warning stickers will be used on bins where residents have not complied with the new waste collection scheme;
- Awareness raising activity will be evaluated using independent external resources in order to constantly improve public engagement;
- Two focus groups have taken place in December with the public in order to identify areas for improvement and gather opinions and ideas of local residents with regards to waste and recycling. A further focus group will be held in January.
- Technical Services have sent out a survey to all petitioners, who noted their objection to the new recycling scheme in the May 2007 “Globe” newspaper petition.

The Waste and Environment Team are reviewing recycling collections in schools in order to offer a similar service to householders, thus educating school children how to use the scheme. This will be supported with an education programme across all key stages, ready for implementation in 2008. The scheme is about to be piloted in 10 schools, prior to the main roll-out in January. Schools have been consulted by Technical Services regarding the scheme.

3.0 HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING ENFORCEMENT POLICY

3.1 Enforcement Warnings

A set of advice / warning stickers have been designed that can be placed on a householder's waste or recycling container by officers of Technical Services or Biffa waste collection operatives and supervisors.

The set of 5 stickers remind residents how to present their bin correctly for collection.

1. First Side Waste advice sticker (side waste taken)
2. Second Side Waste warning (side waste not taken)
3. Bin Left Out warning
4. Mild Contamination / First Offence advice sticker (bin emptied)
5. Heavy Contamination / Second Offence warning (bin not emptied)

Copies of these stickers will be available at the meeting.

3.1.1 First Warning

Once a sticker has been issued to a bin, the officer or crew notes the address where the bin belongs. If the specific address is not known (e.g. the bin is at a collection point and does not display a house number), then the location is noted.

The information is passed to the Waste and Environment Team. The team issue an advice letter to the household where the bin belongs, or the group of households that use that designated collection point. The letter highlights the following information:

- Day of collection;
- Frequency of collection;
- Number, size and type of receptacles provided;
- The waste streams allowed in each type of waste container.

A copy of the letter is kept on file with a signed statement from the officer to confirm when and where the letter was delivered by hand. The letter will also invite the resident to request a visit or waste audit from the recycling department, who can offer advice if they are genuinely struggling to use the scheme.

3.1.2 Second Warning

If a further warning sticker is placed on the same bin then an officer from the Waste and Environment Team shall arrange to visit the offending household in an attempt to offer advice and guidance to that household.

The officer shall record the visit in a journal or “pocket book” and attempt to acquire a signature of understanding from the householder(s). If the officer is unable to make contact with the householder(s), a final written warning will be sent to the household, giving the householder(s) an opportunity to contact the Council. The second warning letter shall also make reference to the first warning letter.

3.1.3 Third Warning: Serving of a Section 46 Notice

Any further breach by a householder will result in an enforcement officer serving a section 46 notice on the all responsible adults in the household. Residents must comply with that notice, or risk being issued with a fixed penalty fine for non-compliance.

3.2 Issuing a Fixed Penalty Fine (FPN)

An FPN may only be issued after a resident fails to comply with the section 46 notice and after the following action has been taken:

- The resident has received a section 46 Notice (to be hand delivered by an Enforcement Officer and recorded in the Officer’s pocket book);
- The resident has received at least one visit from a Council officer to advise the resident on how to use the recycling scheme and the visit shall be recorded in the officer’s Pocket Book and on a “Participation Officers Visit Form”.

A sample “Participation Officers” Visit Form is appended to this report (Appendix 1).

Officers have the discretion to issue more warnings before passing the case file onto the Enforcement Team in order to generate a Fixed Penalty Notice, depending on the amount of case file evidence and extent of the contravention. The decision to issue a fine will be made by the enforcement manager or enforcement team leader and will be based on the detail and quality of the case file presented.

This fine will be issued by mail if the name of the offender is known, or issued in person to the mortgage or rent payer of the property (or to whom the Section 46 Notice was served). The Technical Services Enforcement Team will be responsible for issuing and recording FPN’s and supplying completed case files to the legal section.

Residents who have had two or more fixed penalties issued to them for Section 46 contraventions will be prosecuted for any further contraventions of Section 46, as opposed to being issued with any further Fixed Penalty Notices (in line with DEFRA Guidance).

3.3 Fine Level

The Fixed Penalty Fine will be set at £100 with an early payment option of £60 if the payment is made within 7 days. This is currently DEFRA's recommended default fine level and is consistent with other Merseyside Local Authorities who have started to use this legislation, for example St Helens Council. This fine level will be reviewed on a regular basis in line with government recommendations. A reduced fine level for early payments will help to avoid the case going to appeal should a resident choose to challenge the Fixed Penalty Fine which could result in extra payments for a resident.

3.4 Revenue generated through the payment of Section 46 FPN's

DEFRA instruct Local Authorities to use any revenue from the serving of FPN's to support further enforcement activity and education / awareness raising.

It is anticipated that the amount of revenue gained through Section 46 Enforcement will not be very high, as this policy promotes the education of residents through awareness raising and warnings, and FPN's will only be served as a last resort. However, all revenue acquired will contribute to the additional use of participation officers, enforcement officers and the additional administration requirements through the maintenance of Section 46 case files.

3.5 Public Right of Appeal

If a member of the public contacts the Council due to any warning received, and as a result of further investigation it is found that the resident was not at fault for the contravention, then the record of that warning will be deleted from a case file.

As with all fixed penalty fines, the householder has a right to appeal against the issuing of a fine. The appeal must be received in writing within the given time period laid out on the FPN ticket. Appeals will be decided by the Director of Technical Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member in appropriate circumstances.

3.6 Section 46 Contraventions

The following contraventions apply to all Section 46 notices. The wording of notices will vary to each property, depending upon the recycling schemes available to them, for example, households with gardens will have stipulation set out regarding their garden waste brown bin collections in addition to other stipulations:

- Bins left out on a public highway or open space after collection day;

- Contamination of recycling receptacles;
- Ban on garden waste in the residual bin (where a household has been offered a kerbside collection of garden waste);
- Ban on specified recyclable items being placed in the residual bin (this will only be enforced where the household has been offered kerbside recycling services and there is evidence that the household is making no or little effort to recycle, and causing environmental problems as a result);
- Ban on waste being placed by the side of the bin for collection or placed in the bin in such a manner as to prevent the lid from closing, (all waste must be contained within the bin) with the exception of any “double collections” authorised by the Council due to suspension of waste collections because of holiday periods, special events or industrial action by waste collectors.

3.7 Demonstration of Collection Reliability

Before a case file is considered by Legal Services, Technical Services Department will have to demonstrate that the waste collection service to the property under investigation has receiving a regular and reliable service for the duration of the case file period. This information will be retrieved from the Waste Contractor's PDA system, where times of collections are recorded.

4.0 ISSUES FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 This policy is intended to support the implementation of the new domestic recycling services and alternate weekly waste collections. There are a number of waste related environmental issues not covered with this policy, such as trade waste abuse, fly tipping and householder duty of care. These issues will be subject to a further report scheduled to be presented at this Committee's next meeting.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Financial resources for the awareness raising activities mentioned in this report have already been secured. Through external funding, two officers have been hired on 12 month fixed term contracts in order to assist with enforcement activity. This funding ends in December 2007. Technical Services will extend the contracts until April 2008 from existing budget provision. After this time, Technical Services aims to secure further external funding for these officers. The existing Technical Services Enforcement Team will carry out the serving of notices and issuing of fixed penalty fines. The costs arising from the implementation of the new recycling schemes are contained within the Biffa Waste contract and have already been approved.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Instructional Information issued to residents is available in other languages, large print and Braille. The circumstances of individual households will be taken into consideration before a fixed penalty fine is issued. If mental health, disability or other factors make compliance to the scheme difficult, then officers will make every effort to make to scheme accessible to individuals brought to our attention.

7.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no planning implications arising from this report.

8.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The policy supports the fire brigades approach to reducing the number of bins left out on the highway, which contributes significantly to Wirral's deliberate fires.

9.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no specific human rights implications arising directly from this report. Any direct surveillance work carried out as a result of enforcement activity will be subject to approved RIPA applications, in line with Wirral Council procedures.

10.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 All current and planned activity surrounding waste collection aims to reduce overall waste arisings and divert waste from landfill. This waste strategy compliments LA21 objectives.

11.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

- 11.1 No background papers have been used in the preparation of this report.

12.0 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATONS

- 12.1 No implications.

13.0 SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 No implications.

14.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 All Wards.

15.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Household Waste and Recycling Enforcement Policy detailed in section 3.0 with the minor amendment suggested in Appendix 2 be approved and that the Early Payment Period be amended from 7 to 14 days.

DAVID GREEN
DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

Participation Officer Logging Sheet

Date

Reporting Officer

Name (if known).....

Address.....

.....

Resident Home Yes ☐ No ☐Calling Letter Left Yes ☐ No ☐

Number of Previous Visits.....

Landlords Details (if known)**Notes and Findings of Visit****Information left:**New Booklet ☐ Quick Guide Card ☐ Home Composting ☐ Real Nappies ☐ Junk Mail ☐**Waste Minimisation Tips ☐ Assisted Collection Form ☐ Application For
Additional Bin ☐****Woodchurch Neighbourhood Management Leaflet ☐****Requested Action/Info**Large Font ☐ Audio Book ☐ Braille ☐ Bin Audit ☐ Small Bin – Brown ☐ Grey ☐
Green ☐

Officer Signature Resident Signature(s).....

APPENDIX 2

HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING ENFORCEMENT POLICY - SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED AT ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In response to questions raised at the last Environment Committee, this report clarifies Technical Services methodology for policy implementation and provides additional information for Members regarding the proposed Section 46 Enforcement policy. The report also details one proposed amendment to the policy regarding the early payment option.

2.0 ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Bins regularly left out on a Public Highway or Open Space after Collection Day

This breach of Section 46 is common throughout terraced areas in Wirral. Enforcement powers are more likely to be used for this issue than others listed in the report (e.g. contamination).

The Fire Service support our approach to encourage residents to store their bin securely on their own property, as opposed to leaving them on the street in front of their house or at collection points.

In response to Councillor complaints, we recently targeted six streets in Birkenhead, where bins left out for excessive periods were causing environmental problems. Forty green and grey bins were retrieved by the Council from five entries, despite residents receiving two warning letters. All bins scheduled for removal had notices put on them informing residents of the planned removal date. Most bins were genuinely abandoned.

The Council then monitored requests for new bins called in by residents through Streetscene. These residents had to pay for new bins to be delivered, or were given the option of collecting a second hand bin from Cheshire Lines free of charge. The new bin was then numbered and the offending household(s) served with a Section 46 notice. Any breach of this notice, once served should result in the issuing of an FPN.

The Council's bin replacement budget is 106K per annum which funds around 7000 bin deliveries. This budget will come under pressure now Wirral operates a 3-bin system and green bins are nearing end of life. It is imperative that we reduce the number of bins stolen, or damaged because they are left out on the public highway.

Technical Services propose to deliver stickered numbers to households prior to carrying out an abandoned bin sweep. Residents will be required to number their bin

in order for it to be emptied. This will help officers to identify abandoned bins, and those residents failing to comply with Section 46. Numbering bins enhances bin ownership and may reduce the likelihood of it being stolen or abused by neighbours.

2.2 Deliberate Contamination of Recycling Receptacles

All loads of dry recycling delivered to the MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) at Bidston contain some degree of contamination. Wirral must have mechanisms in place to control the amount of contamination in order to prevent loads exceeding the acceptable MRF specification.

One or two heavily contaminated bins collected by one vehicle could tip the balance and cause a whole load to be rejected. Similarly, too many households presented mildly contaminated bins could cause a load to be rejected.

A rejected load will cost Merseyside Councils between £500 and £700 due to landfill charges, taxes and loss of income from the sale of clean recyclates.

It is therefore important that the Council is able to identify and educate residents who may be uncertain about what can and cannot be accepted in the grey bin, as well as taking action against those residents who persist with presenting contaminated grey bins.

2.3 Ban on Garden Waste in the Residual Bin (where a household has been offered a kerbside collection of garden waste)

Technical Services are expanding the garden waste collection service to another 4900 properties in April 2008. All properties where it is reasonably viable to collect from will have been offered the service. There will be a small number (up to 300) of “hard to reach” properties not able to be part of the scheme. These properties will be offered a free home compost bin during a two month 2008 promotion.

2.4 Education and Awareness

The role of the Contamination Officers has been key in tackling contamination issues on the grey and brown bin scheme. August 2007 has been used as an example to show the levels of contamination that have been experienced and how this has been tackled. August figures are representative of the current level of contamination referrals we receive from Biffa. However, we expect referrals to increase once the complete enforcement system is introduced and the crews have been re-briefed accordingly. In August the Contamination Officers worked solely on resident contamination as opposed to more recent months where their roles have involved other activities such as monitoring calendar deliveries.

On most occasions it was mild contamination that caused the problems. Where householders were at home during a Contamination Officer visit the outcome was mainly positive. Once the reason for contamination was explained the resident understood where they had gone wrong and promised to adhere to the scheme properly in future. 90% of residents signed the 'calling log' to confirm this.

Where the resident was out and a calling letter was left it is hard to tell if they still continued to contaminate the bin. Technical Services propose to ask those residents to complete a reply slip (Freepost) and return it to us indicating that they wish to have an educational visit to explain the scheme in more detail, or that the information they have received is adequate and they now understand what can and cannot be presented in the recycling bins (see Appendix A). If the reply slip is not returned, then that property will be visited again by an officer who will serve a Section 46 notice on the property.

Encouragingly, some of the calls made showed that the problem had already been solved as the resident had taken action once a contamination leaflet had been left by Biffa.

Technical Services have not yet progressed enforcement with persistent offenders as we are awaiting endorsement from Members. There are, however, occasions when serving a Section 46 notice because of contamination would have been appropriate, acting as the final deterrent before the resident risks being issued with an FPN. Many other Councils operating compulsory recycling policies (e.g. Barnet) have found Section 46 notices to be the best deterrent for preventing further “offences”, which minimises the need for an FPN to be issued.

Below is a table to illustrate the types of contamination reported to us by Biffa and the areas that were visited by two participation officers in a typical month:

Contamination by area August 07

Rock Ferry	8
Hoylake	6
Moreton	44
Birkenhead	36
Upton	14
Noctorum	30
Prenton	6
Greasby	4
Pensby	2

Types of Contamination

Mild	76
Heavy	22
Bin Left Out/abandoned	28
No problems found	16

other	8
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Response

Householder out/ calling letter/literature left	36
Householder counselled/ problem solved	76
Further visits/action needed (e.g. Serving Section 46 Notice)	38

Appendix B illustrates a typical path for education/ enforcement that would be taken by Technical Services in response to mild or heavy contamination.

3.0 HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING ENFORCEMENT POLICY

3.1 Timescales for Enforcement Action

Heavy / deliberate contamination

Residents would be subject to an FPN for up to 12 months from the date a section 46 notice is served. After 12 months, the section 46 notice would be re-served as a result of a further breach being brought to the Council's attention.

Mild contamination

Households would be subject to an FPN for up to 6 months from the date a section 46 notice is served. The type and frequency of contamination would be a determining factor of whether and FPN is necessary. The Council would be expected to demonstrate that the contamination was a result of deliberate contamination or carelessness by the resident, as opposed to a genuine lack of understanding.

3.2 Non-Payment of fines

Residents failing to pay fines within the timescales will be taken to court for "non-payment of fine".

Technical Services wish to amend the early payment period from 7 days to 14 days to give residents greater opportunity to meet the payment deadline for the lower amount (£60).

3.3 Section 46 Contraventions

3.3.1 Definition of side-waste

Side waste is waste presented on collection day that is not wholly or partly contained within the correct colour bin. Waste is considered to be side waste if it:

- i) Is placed next to, or on top of a bin.

- ii) Placed in the bin in such a manner that it is likely to cause spillage or littering in a public place whilst awaiting collection or during the emptying process.
- iii) Placed in the bin in such a manner that it may cause injury to the waste collector.

3.3.2 Closed Lid Policy

This approach expects residents to contain their waste by presenting the bin with the lid closed. It is not proposed to apply the enforcement procedures for the closed lid policy, except where the lid is so far open as to cause (ii) or (iii) above.

DAVID GREEN
DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES



**Appendix A: ADVICE
LETTER A: Heavy
contamination**

Dear Resident,

During our routine waste collection, we were unable to empty your grey bin because it contained items that cannot be accepted on our kerbside recycling scheme.

The council take your recycling to a 'materials recovery facility' (MRF) at Bidston where they are separated, baled and sent to local companies to be made into new products.

If incorrect items are mixed in with the recycling materials they may cause damage to the machinery at the MRF.

Many of these incorrect items can also become baled up with all the correct recycling materials such as paper. The companies who reprocess these materials class this mixed-in waste as contamination, and will reject the load that has been delivered. This means that the bale is not recycled but has to be sent to a landfill site.

An officer has called today to talk to you about the new paper and packaging scheme, and answer any questions you may have.

- As you were not at home we have enclosed a quick guide postcard to help separate your waste properly.
- Please make certain that ONLY those items marked with a green ✓ are placed in your grey bin.
- Please ensure all items are placed 'loose' in your bin. Do not use plastic bags as these can get easily mixed in with paper at the sorting facility.

To help you remove the contaminated waste in your grey bin we have provided you with stickers that can be placed on refuse sacks. The stickered refuse sacks can then be placed in or next to your *green* bin on your next collection day.

If you have any further questions please call Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 or email xxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxx.xx

Please fill in and return the slip below in the **Freepost** envelope provided to avoid any further action being taken against you regarding this incident.

I confirm I have read and understood the above information

☐

I require further advice and would like to request a visit from an officer

☐

Name.....

Address.....Tel.....

Signed.....

Date.....