

## Connections – town and parish council online engagement

Topic: Waste Consultation - initial engagement and next steps

Date: Monday 25 January 2020, 4pm-5pm

As agreed, questions/comments have been lifted from the online chat box for a written response by the Environmental Commissioning Team:

1	<p><b>Will CWAC increase the range for recycling eg plastic film?</b></p> <p>We are exploring possible collection options within the consultation. Please can you play your part and express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire.</p> <p>Find out more about plastics: <a href="https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/recycle-first/plastic-free.aspx">https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/recycle-first/plastic-free.aspx</a></p>
2	<p><b>Will the new vehicles be electric?</b></p> <p>We are exploring possible collection vehicle options within the consultation to help reduce emissions and help tackle our climate change emergency. Please can you play your part and express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire.</p>
3	<p><b>If I haven't got a garden, or do not wish to use the garden collection service, will my Council Tax be discounted?</b></p> <p>Council Tax is not a direct payment for a service, it is a property-based form of local taxation which raises revenue to fund a wide range of services.</p> <p>The proportion of the payment for council tax that is allocated for all the waste services is a small percentage. This figure includes the provision of the kerbside collection service, household waste recycling centres and the disposal costs. These services combined costs the Council around £22.4m each year to manage the waste produced from approx. 158,850 households in Cheshire West and Chester (2019/2020 Council Tax data).</p>
4	<p><b>As well as promoting good recycling behaviour, have you considered penalising households that don't recycle when they could - ie carrot and stick?</b></p> <p>This is an option we are exploring but we would like your thoughts and ideas on how you think we can do this or what impact it might have. Please take part in the consultation.</p>

5	<p><b>If you start charging for the disposal of certain items is there not a danger of more fly tipping?</b></p> <p>We are exploring several waste management charging options and welcome any views you have on the potential impacts both positive and negative. Please can you play your part and express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire</p>
6	<p><b>How will CW&amp;C stop additional flytipping if charges are introduced for garden waste, hardcore etc?</b></p> <p>We are exploring several waste management charging options and welcome any views you have on the potential impacts this may have and any feedback on how this could reduce or be prevented. Please can you play your part and express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire</p>
7	<p><b>What size are the recycling bins? Not acceptable to make a decision without knowing the size of the recycling bins</b></p> <p>The size of the recycling bins is yet to be determined but will take into account the volumes of recyclable material and the collection frequency. We welcome your views on this and request that you express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire. For reference the current black bin for domestic non recycled waste is 180 litres the current green garden waste bin is 240 litres.</p>
8	<p><b>What is the evidence that option B would increase recycling rates over option A?</b></p> <p>Option B has an increased rate of recycling over the current baseline service due to the drivers to minimise waste associated with the decreased frequency of residual collections (3 weeks) and the increased capacity for recyclates (wheeled bins rather than boxes). These two changes combined serve to increase the recycling rate.</p> <p>The two options for collection methodology have been short listed through an extensive modelling exercise and in part based on the resultant rates from similar collection methodology and other Councils moving to 3 weekly residual collections which have seen increases in the rate of recycling.</p>
9	<p><b>So, is option A no change?</b></p> <p>Recycling is currently collected in boxes every week. Option A offers wheeled bins instead of boxes for recycling and will be collected every 2 weeks. Non-recyclable household waste will continue to be collected every 2 weeks and food waste will continue to be a weekly collection.</p>
10	<p><b>Do any other councils in the region use option A or B for their waste collection? If so is there any data we can see?</b></p> <p>Waste and recycling services vary around the country by frequency of collection and container type or capacity. Based on the most recent figures by WRAP: 23% of councils in Wales have a 3 weekly domestic waste collection. 3% of Scotland have a 4 weekly collection. 37% of councils in England offer a 'twin stream' service. Whilst some local authorities provide a 2 week non-recyclable household waste service in a 140l wheeled bin (smaller than our current black bin).</p>

	<p>Bury - <a href="https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=10379">https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=10379</a></p> <p>St Albans - <a href="https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish">https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish</a></p> <p>East Riding - <a href="https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/environment/bins-rubbish-recycling/">https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/environment/bins-rubbish-recycling/</a></p>
11	<p><b>Could CWAC consider generic recycling?</b></p> <p><b>We need more information to answer this question. Do you mean Recycling the exact same materials across the country? If so:</b></p> <p>Central Government will be running a public consultation in March which will include a section on Harmonised collection systems. They will be asking questions around introducing recycling service that will be generic to the whole of the country. We will be following the progress on this.</p>
12	<p><b>How will you address an increase in flytipping caused by less frequent collections/charges? The change in opening hours at the tips caused an increase so I'm sure collecting less frequently will too.</b></p> <p>Fly tipping enquiries can be reported through the website, app and customer contact centre. Each report is allocated to a cleansing team. If the team thinks that there is some evidence which can be used to enforce on fly tippers, then it will be forwarded onto the regulatory services team to investigate.</p> <p>We have not had any real spikes in fly tipping during the lockdown period or when the recycling centres reduced their hours.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor our fly tipping figures and review and future spikes. Please can you play your part and express your views, concerns or suggestions by completing the questionnaire.</p> <p><b>Please advise how can residents who do not have online access participate in the consultation?</b></p> <p>We are asking for our stakeholders such as town and parish councils to circulate the consultation message to as many residents as possible. Information has been supplied in the form of a PDF A5 card which contains all the information on how people can access the consultation. This includes how to order paper copies for those without internet access.</p> <p>Telephone number: 0300 123 7026 for paper copies for those without internet access only.</p> <p>The format of participate now, the survey and virtual exhibition centre can all be viewed on a mobile phone or tablet you do not need a computer.</p> <p>Engaging with stakeholders who work with residents who may have difficulties completing online to ensure all residents can make their views known.</p>

13	<p>Could bin size/ number be linked to house band? A band F house is likely to have a garden and need larger recycling capacity to a Band B which is likely to be a 2 bed. It seems unfair that a property in a high band gets the same as those who pay less in a lower band.</p> <p>Council Tax banding is not always an indication of house size or whether or not it has a garden. For example, a property in a city centre may have higher banding but may not have access to any outdoor space.</p> <p>All properties in Cheshire West and Chester pay the same for their waste and recycling service regardless of council tax banding. If we decide to make a charge for garden it gives people, the choice whether to use it or not. This way, only those that wish to use the service would pay for it.</p> <p>Currently, all households in Cheshire West contribute to this service via their council tax, even if they don't have a garden</p>
14	<p>Have these options been costed?</p> <p>We are working with colleagues within our finance team to make sure that costs will be within our allocated budget.</p>
15	<p>The residents in my parish have asked me to find the answers to the following questions. As it is a long list I appreciate you may not be able to answer them all today – email response is fine:</p> <p><b>What about people who do not have the space for 4 wheelie bins?</b> We are exploring possible collection options within the consultation. Please can you play your part and express your views, concerns or suggestions by completing the questionnaire</p> <p><b>How large will the recycle bins be?</b> Depending on which option is chosen the domestic bin will be the same or slightly larger. The green garden waste bin will also be the same. At this moment we do not know what size the recycling bins will be. We are exploring possible collection options within the consultation. Please can you play your part and express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire</p> <p><b>Are you moving away from Diesel/petrol powered bin lorries? If not ,why not as you say you want to address the climate emergency?</b> We are exploring possible collection vehicle options within the consultation to help reduce emissions and help tackle our climate change emergency. Please can you play your part and express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire</p> <p><b>How much will a green bin collection cost? – you must have worked it out to know what savings etc you will have?</b> We are working with colleagues within our finance team to make sure that all costs will be within our allocated budget.</p>

Can we have more detail on the garden waste, including if we will still be able to have an extra garden bin (with costs)?

We are exploring possible collection options within the consultation. If this is an option you would like us to consider please can you play your part and express your views, concerns or suggestions by completing the questionnaire.

The same size green bin as now on a 3 weekly collection is penalising the rural communities who tend to have larger gardens. We struggle with the green bin now on a 2 week collection. You are encouraging the burning of more garden waste and hence contributing to the climate emergency. We already compost as much as we have space to do.

We are exploring possible collection options within the consultation. Please can you play your part and express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire.

How will moving to a 3 weekly collection with a LARGER black bin encourage increased recycling? If you really want to increase recycling you need to keep the black bins as small as possible so people have to put the recyclable items in the recycling bins. Comments from residents are: We rarely fill our current smaller black bin in 2 weeks so if we had a larger one for 3 weeks it would be pretty empty every time, although I know other larger households who run out of space in their black bin now even though they recycle as much as they can.

In Option B we are consulting on the possibility of having a larger wheeled bin collected on a less frequency basis – this gives an overall slightly reduced capacity which together with an increased recycling capacity helps to achieve a higher recycling rate compared to Option A. We appreciate there are some exceptions. We currently have policies in place for larger families who meet the qualifying criteria for additional waste capacity.

What is your view on the bin(s) becoming too heavy and hence they then refuse to empty them on H&S grounds as already happens with the 'smaller' black bins. This is an increasing problem even though we can easily move the bins up steep slopes the bin men say they are too heavy (and we are older than them)!!

In option B the larger wheeled bin will be 240l. This is the same size as the current garden waste bin and is used throughout the waste industry. If residents have difficulty moving their containers, we can offer residents assistance. We are exploring possible waste management options within this consultation. Please can you play your part and express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire

What is your view on us having to move bins, which will now be 25% to 50% heavier, up a long steep drive?

**See above** - We are exploring possible collection options within the consultation. Please can you play your part and express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire

Can the consultation be made more prominent on the CWaC website? It only appears on the home page if you wait for it to scroll into view and if you search for consultation it does not show up unless you click through other links. Gives the impression the council are trying to hide it, which I am sure is untrue.

Unfortunately, we are unable to have a more prominent spot on the website due to COVID-19. These messages are very important and take priority.

16	<p>One concern is that the new larger black bin will not fit in people's existing bin stores. Has existing storage been considered?</p> <p>We are exploring possible collection options within the consultation. Please can you play your part and express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire.</p>
17	<p>Question from parishioner received this afternoon: "no way of completing the easy read document online. " Is this the case?</p> <p>This will be rectified soon. The easy read consultation will be online. If you would like to pass on your details, we can let you know when this is ready.</p>
18	<p>I live in a block of flats, so, we have no food waste bins, and all others are communal; Is it possible to have some kind of food waste bins?</p> <p>Details to be emailed direct to Emma Harrison: emma.harrison@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</p>
19	<p>When can the Council negotiate with a recycle centre to be able to recycle black plastic? I know it has to be a digital /optical reader situation.</p> <p>Plastic items are sorted by optical scanners which use the reflection of light to identify the types of plastics. Black plastic doesn't reflect light, so cannot be seen and sorted by the scanners and could end up contaminating and discolouring other plastic. Manufactures of black plastic are working with processors to 'design out' black or unrecyclable plastic in favour of alternative recyclable options. This is also something the UK Government are exploring as part of the National Resources and Waste Strategy which was published by the Government in 2018 and sets out measures to help to achieve this ambition including to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025.</li> <li>• Work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030.</li> <li>• Eliminate avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of the 25 Year Environment Plan.</li> <li>• Double resource productivity by 2050.</li> <li>• Eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050</li> </ul> <p>Please can you play your part and express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire.</p>
20	<p>How is CW&amp;C going to deal with the recycling material that residents currently don't put in the recycling bins but just dump in the black bins?</p> <p>The kerbside collection service collects all of our recyclable waste from every home in west Cheshire every week. A recent report has shown that 74% of the waste collected in the black bins around west Cheshire could have been recycled.</p> <p>Only a small number of items should be put in your black bin. Everything else can be recycled or taken to your Household Waste Recycling Centre. By making small changes west Cheshire black bin waste could be reduced by 74% and a 60% recycling rate could be achieved.</p>

	<p>Recycling is not compulsory at the moment, but residents do need to recycle to ensure all their non-recyclable waste can fit in their black bin: any additional waste will not be collected. As part of this consultation we are asking for your feedback regarding education and awareness. We are exploring possible options within the consultation. Please can you play your part and express your views, concerns and suggestions by completing the questionnaire.</p>
21	<p>One way the Council would not need to increase payments from its residents, is to use legal borrowing powers - as do all governments!!! Jobs and services before "balancing the books" !</p> <p>We are unable to answer this question as this information is politically restricted.</p>
22	<p>Saying it's 50p per week for all of these services doesn't add up that CWAC would need to charge £40-£70 per year for garden waste collections alone. Please explain...</p> <p>This statement is not true figure. Council Tax is not a direct payment for a service, it is a property-based form of local taxation which raises revenue to fund a wide range of services.</p> <p>The proportion of the payment for council tax that is allocated for all the waste services is a small percentage. This figure includes the provision of the kerbside collection service, households waste recycling centres and the disposal costs. These services combined costs the Council around 22.4m each year to manage the waste produced from approx. 158,850 households in Cheshire West and Chester (2019/2020 Council Tax data).</p> <p>Material collected from recycling is sold and the money received helps to reduce the overall cost of running the service. There have been significant impacts upon material income in the past 10 years due to global slowdown in the value of recyclable materials. This means there is decreasing funding available to be reinvested into our waste services.</p> <p>Currently the Council provides a kerbside garden waste collection service. A council does not have to collect garden waste, but it is a service it can choose to provide. It is allowed to make a charge and most councils do. This service has a collection cost and unlike recyclable materials there is no material income from garden waste so there is a cost associated with disposal. Due to increase financial pressures, the Council must make some tough decisions and as part of the consultation we are exploring different options to deal with garden waste including a paid for service.</p>
23	<p>I do not understand how Option B will increase the existing level of recycling. Please explain what evidence is there to support this statement?</p> <p>See answer to Question 8</p>
24	<p>Should the consultation be called Waste Management not recycling as it could be a bit misleading?</p> <p>This is the 'Waste strategy consultation'.</p>

25

You can currently have more boxes FOC if you wish. What if the recycling bins are not big enough? What about rats and vermin if not.

We are exploring possible collection options within the consultation. Please can you play your part and express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire.

26

Is there any evidence for an increased vermin risk with lower frequency collections?

There is no evidence to suggest this from other councils who have moved to 3 or 4 weekly non household waste collections. All food waste will continue to be collected weekly.

27

Can you share those statistics off wrap with us all?

Household Kerbside Residual Waste Collections

Percentage of local authorities collecting residual waste by frequency 2017/18

	Weekly	More Than Weekly	Fortnightly	3 Weekly	4 Weekly
England	43%	4%	77%	2%	0%
Wales	5%	0%	77%	23%	0%
Scotland	28%	9%	84%	16%	3%
Northern Ireland	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
<b>UK</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>

Source: <http://laportal.wrap.org.uk/Statistics.aspx>

Household Kerbside Garden Waste Collections

Percentage of local authorities operating organic collections 2017/18

	Operate An Organic Scheme*	Annual Charge For The Organic Scheme
England	97%	58%
Wales	100%	50%
Scotland	81%	6%
Northern Ireland	91%	0%
<b>UK</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>53%</b>

28	<p>Could you not have a 2 tier system for rural areas and city centres. This is one size fits all</p> <p>We are exploring possible collection options within the consultation. Please can you play your part and express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire.</p>
29	<p>Are there any rural council's in the north west who have moved to 3 weekly collections? What have they learnt from this change?</p> <p>See Question 10.</p>
30	<p>Presumably CWAC's consultants explored other options/models (e.g. one wheelie bin for ALL recycling waste) before settling on Option A or B for the consultation? Please can such background be made available as part of the consultation?</p> <p>A number of different options for the management of waste including the kerbside collection service were modelled to determine performance (recycling rate, carbon) and estimated costs. The high-level results that achieved our priorities below were developed into a shortlist list of options. These options are what we are consulting residents on including the collection method.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce overall waste.</li> <li>• Maximise recycling.</li> <li>• Deliver an efficient and cost-effective waste collection, recycling and processing service.</li> <li>• the need to tackle our climate emergency and protect</li> <li>• our environment</li> </ul>
31	<p>Many people in our rural area have 2 sets of recycling boxes and 2 black wheelie bins because of the size of their household. For example we have 8 adults in a large house. Will you continue to provide the equivalent number of bins under any new scheme?</p> <p>We are exploring possible collection options within the consultation. Please can you play your part and express your views and concerns by completing the questionnaire.</p>
32	<p>It is very difficult to recycle plastic bags. Why don't CW&amp;C have a collection centre for these at the recycling centres?</p> <p>We are unable to recycle plastic bags at the re-processors we use which recycle a mixture of different plastics. Plastic bags are not recyclable with other plastics because they jam the conveyor belts and parts of the recycling equipment. It is easy to recycle plastic bags at the supermarket. Many of them have boxes in the foyer that you can put your bags in when you are shopping rather than making a special journey to the recycling centre.</p>
33	<p>As this is a ten year plan is the new incinerator being built in Northwich being considered?</p> <p>The waste strategy covers all waste management practices including disposal.</p>

	Service flexibility was one of the criteria we used when exploring the options-ensuring that any service option can adapt to changes in technology as they become available, the economy and meet our climate change ambitions.
34	<p>Is the incinerator at Protos, near Ince, being considered?</p> <p>As above</p>
35	<p>The statement about black plastic - If I understood it correctly black plastic trays are not recycled due to the problem of detecting the item on the black belt. I was taken back by this statement, I was always under the impression it was due to the type of plastic, not that they could not identify it. I find this very odd as these trays are extremely common probably due to the fact that colour contaminated plastic can be used in the production. I am sure this must have been considered but I will ask anyway. If this is the case: Why have they not used a short section of light coloured belt in the system in order to identify the black items ?</p> <p>Plastic is sorted using optical scanning. Unfortunately, the scanner cannot identify black plastic on a black conveyor belt.</p> <p>In theory black plastic can be recycled but there are currently no re-processors that offer this service so as a local authority we are unable to offer this service to you.</p> <p>This is a national problem and one which WRAP are working with suppliers on. They are working to eliminate black plastic from the stream so that there is no necessity to recycle it. Sainsbury has already eliminated black plastic from their shelves. This takes times for everyone to do this and we recommend that our resident avoid buying anything contained in black plastic – there are lots of alternative products that do not use this type of plastic.</p> <p>We have forwarded your question onto our re-processor so that they let you know the challenges they face with regards to black plastic. Your idea may well be an opportunity.</p>
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The Council should be supporting start up initiatives for every kind of recycling - garden waste could certainly be one - producing compost locally. Less trips to the tip, less administrative input from CWAC on charging for garden waste collections, jobs created...</p> <p>There are lots of services residents pay for but do not use - it is a tax not a payment for service. For example: Schools</p> <p>Regardless of the system for collecting household waste, not enough is being done to stop the waste being produced. CWAC should look at measures to deter and prevent businesses in the Borough from providing non-recyclable materials. Start with takeaways using polystyrene and plastic - these are low-hanging fruit!</p> <p>What about the pollution from incineration eg the toxic bottom waste  <a href="https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&amp;rct=j&amp;q=&amp;esrc=s&amp;source=web&amp;cd=&amp;cad=rja&amp;uact=8&amp;ved=2ahUKEwiv47DwGL_uAhXOUMAKHYDYBvsQFjAJegQIBRAC&amp;url=http%3A%2F%2Frandd.defra.gov.uk">https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&amp;rct=j&amp;q=&amp;esrc=s&amp;source=web&amp;cd=&amp;cad=rja&amp;uact=8&amp;ved=2ahUKEwiv47DwGL_uAhXOUMAKHYDYBvsQFjAJegQIBRAC&amp;url=http%3A%2F%2Frandd.defra.gov.uk</a></p>	

[%2FDocument.aspx%3FDocument%3D11561\\_PS2808Incineration.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0M7O6vHWAZEwtmYnOD4SIj](#)

The Council must recognise that there is a proportion of the community who will not engage and will not be reached with 'educational' measures - many are just not interested in their own immediate neighbourhoods let alone the wider environment. Such people will continue to over-stuff their household waste bins with recyclables and fly tip rather than use recycling centres. Detection and enforcement would be too costly so this element needs much more thought.

Fly tipping is a major problem locally even blocking roads with rubble. Anything that makes it more difficult or more expensive to get rid of waste will increase this fly tipping and the cost of removing it.

Climate Emergency! If residents took their own garden waste this would result in a massive increase in unnecessary individual journeys to the recycle centres and lead to an increase in fly-tipping that would also adversely impact on CWAC budgets

In some countries there are large communal waste and recycling bins on the street which might be a better option than individual household collections. Even the less able bodied would be able to pop a small bag of rubbish into a large nearby bin rather than struggle to roll out huge wheelie bins.

Also, this would be much better than people in flats and terraces putting out rubbish on pavements for collection: a hazard to pedestrians (particularly blind and partially sighted) and creating an invitation to vermin.

Some might consider that communal rubbish points are unsightly but so is the current system with wheelie bins and in particular recycling boxes littering the streets and blowing into the road at times.

The level of fly tipping increased when the Tattenhall tip changed its hours / days - increased fly tipping in Tattenhall and Beeston areas.

Not all properties have the space to store a large number of containers such as 180L bins, this may cause problems with people who have little outdoor space and prefer using it for recreation rather than recycling

