

To: Portfolio Holder for Technical & Waste Services

From: David Campbell-Lenaghan, Street Scene Manager

Director: Robert Styles, Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services

BRIEFING NOTE: EXECUTIVE - NON-KEY DECISION

Summary of Issue:

Changes are proposed to the phased roll out of the recycling services to communal bin stores which were previously approved at SSEAB in February 2022

Recommendation:

It is recommended that, in order to deliver the roll out of recycling to flats within the original time frame previously presented to Members, and to not have a potential detrimental impact on regular frontline services, the alteration to the phasing be agreed as outlined below.

1 Background

1.1 As approved by Members of the last Street Scene & Environment Advisory Board in February 2022, the roll out of the recycling services to properties with communal bin stores has been progressed and is going as planned, with most residents on the latest phase adapting to the new system well with few incidents of contaminated bins taking place. A few properties are proving more problematic than those included in the initial phases, but these are receiving increased monitoring & engagement. As we move through each phase, we are also including individual properties that can be switched to the alternate-weekly service at the same time.

2 Main Issues

2.1 As advised to Members previously, when the initial phases took place in central Tonbridge, all were either on a Thursday or Friday collection, which makes switching these properties onto the frontline crews relatively easy. As we move out of Tonbridge, doing this by area rather than collection day makes it more complex when putting them onto the frontline services, as the work for the weekly refuse collection crew – servicing those properties that cannot move to fortnightly refuse collections – becomes more spread out & patchy. As such the proposal is now to complete the roll out by collection day rather than geographic area. The table below attached shows the impact on the original proposal of the proposed changes:

Original:

		Areas	Scheduled collection days affected
Phase 2	Jan	Tonbridge	Part of Thursday & Friday
Phase 3	March	Hadlow, East Peckham, Tonbridge	Part of Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
Phase 4	May	Snodland, Borough Green, Walderslade	Part of Monday, Wednesday
Phase 5	July	RBLV Aylesford, Ditton, Eccles	Parts of Monday & Tuesday
Phase 6	September	East Malling, West Malling, Kings Hill	Parts of Tuesday & Wednesday
Phase 7	November	Larkfield, Aylesford,	Parts of Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

Proposed

Phase 2	Jan	Tonbridge	Part of Thursday & Friday
Phase 3	March	Hadlow, East Peckham, Tonbridge	Part of Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
Phase 4	April	Tonbridge, Hildenborough	Individual properties & outstanding Thurs & Friday
Phase 5	May-June	Borough Green, Kings Hill, Ryarsh, Wrotham, Larkfield, Plaxtol, Platt, Shipbourne, Ightham	Current Wednesday collections
Phase 6	July-September	Larkfield, Mereworth, Hadlow, East Malling, West Malling, Leybourne, Offham, Watlingtonbury	Current Tuesday collection
Phase 7	September-November	RBLV, Snodland, Wouldham, Eccles, Aylesford, Blue Bell Hill	Current Monday collections

2.2 This revised programme also now includes those areas that may not have many communal bin properties but do have individual households that can be switched to the alternate weekly schedule of collections. However, we are still on target to complete the roll out within the agreed timeframe.

2.3 Not to accept the revised phasing would result in significant operational issues as properties were moved onto core frontline services, would require additional vehicle resource during the remainder of the phased roll-out, and would be likely to adversely impact on existing frontline collections. The proposed changes would have no additional cost implications for the Council.

3 Legal Advice

3.1 The matters set out in this briefing note are considered routine or uncontroversial and a legal opinion has not been sought.

4 Public Sector Equality Duty

4.1 No impact other than continuing to deliver equal opportunities for access to kerbside recycling services.

5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

5.1 We do not consider that this matter should needs to be considered by O&S/SSC before a decision is made.

6 Communications

6.1 When the decision on the original phase order was considered by SSEAB, a media release was provided to advise members of the public regarding the adopted phases. A further media release may be considered to provide an update on this decision.

7 Conclusion

7.1 Accepting the recommendation within this report will allow the phased roll out of recycling services to proceed in a more efficient & effective manner with less potential disruption to frontline collection services.

8 Annexes

8.1 There are no annexes to this briefing note.