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Date July 2021

Dear Resident,

Important changes to your recycling collection service - Trial Pilot Scheme

In the current financial climate, Tameside Council has to make further savings and carefully consider every pound we spend, just as you have to at home. We have looked at the costs and service provision across Waste Services and believe we could make savings by adjusting the service we provide.

We have looked at the green bins and the brown bins and believe these provide the right disposal capacity and frequency of collection. We are not proposing to make any changes to the green or brown bins.

Over the last three years, we have seen the total amount of paper and cardboard collected in the blue bins steadily decreasing. The way people shop, what they buy and their understanding of the environment and sustainability have contributed to less paper and cardboard being presented for collection. The markets for this material have also changed, with recent years seeing the value of the material collected dropping.

The tonnage of glass, plastic bottles, tin foil and cans presented for collection remains quite constant. However, the black bins have a large capacity and a lower presentation rate from residents, meaning they are not always full and have capacity to spare.

Bearing the above factors in mind, we believe both the blue and black bin could accommodate a collection frequency change from two weekly to three weekly. It is worth noting the blue bins used to be collected every three weeks as recently as 2016, without issue and at higher overall tonnages.

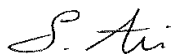
We are planning to roll out a pilot project to gauge the impact of the change to collection frequency on the black bins and blue bins. The collection frequency would be changed from fortnightly to three weekly. If we can show that the bins can cope with a less frequent collection, we can make essential savings to safeguard limited public funds for key services.

Your area has been chosen as one of the pilot areas to take part in an initial three-month trial. You have the opportunity to really make a difference in helping us find long term solutions to saving public funds so we can continue to deliver services in an ever more challenging economic climate.

The attached calendar shows you what your new collection regime will be. This new collection regime, which shows you which bins to present for collection, is effective from ***day **month** 2021.

We want to know your views on this pilot as it is important we understand how this change affects you, so we can assess whether it is a viable option for wider roll out. We will be writing to you a few weeks into the trial to ask for feedback, via an online survey, on your own experience of the pilot. Paper copies of this survey can be provided if preferred. If you have any queries, please contact Customer Services on 0161 342 8355, or visit the website at www.tameside.gov.uk/recycling.

Yours sincerely



Shamshed Ali
Environmental Services Manager
Waste Management

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why are we making this change?

Tameside Council has to make further savings and carefully consider every pound we spend. This change will help us find long term solutions to saving public funds so we can continue to deliver services in an ever more challenging economic climate.

How much money will the Council Save under this scheme?

By making small changes such as the frequency charge collection described above, the service can save in the region of £370,000, per full year it is in place.

Can I have additional recycling bins – black or blue bin?

Yes. You can order additional black or blue bins online at www.tameside.gov.uk/refuseandrecycling or by contacting us using the details at the top of this letter.

How many pilot areas are there?

There are 4 pilot areas, those being, Ridge Hill, Stalybridge; Central Hyde; Haughton Green, Denton; Richmond Park Estate, Dukinfield.

How long will the pilot last?

The assessment period of the pilot will be the initial 12 weeks. The outcomes of that pilot will be assessed. As that assessment is being done the 3 weekly collections will continue.

How will the pilot be monitored?

We will look at the amount of recycling waste being collected and the number of bins presented for collection following the introduction of the pilot scheme compared to historical baseline data. We will also look at feedback from residents involved in the pilot.