

FAQs

Recycling and waste contract survey

Please see below some frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the recycling and waste contract survey.

When will the new contract start?

The new contract will start on 1 April 2020.

Why might we change the current service?

One of the Council's key priorities is to reduce waste and recycle more. At present our recycling rate is 36%. This is in the lowest quarter of all Local Authorities in the UK. We know that residents can recycle more than they are currently doing - about 75% of a household's waste can be recycled using the current collections, but we still find that over half of an average rubbish bag consists of items that can be recycled. Our local research shows that if you recycle all you can, you will still have space left in your rubbish bin when collected every other week. The recommended service will also help us keep our streets cleaner, as containing rubbish in a wheeled bin or re-usable rubbish bag will prevent animals and birds ripping open bags and making a mess in our streets, which is unpleasant for everyone.

What might be changing to collections in future?

The recommendation is for recycling to be collected on a weekly basis in future. This will also include the weekly collection of food waste. Any waste not able to be recycled will be collected on a fortnightly basis.

Will garden waste collections change?

There are no proposed changes to garden waste collections.

Will everyone get a wheeled bin for their rubbish?

This has not been determined yet although most other Local Authorities provide wheeled bins for collections of rubbish to properties that are able to use them, other properties who are unable to use wheeled bins are normally supplied with seagull-proof sacks for their rubbish.

Will I have a choice on the container I receive for my rubbish?

This has not been decided although under the recommendation, the majority of properties (75%) will be supplied with a wheeled bin and Seagull-proof sacks will be supplied to those properties that are unable to accommodate wheeled bins.

Will my collection day change?

It may, although this has yet to be determined.

Will we be supplied with new recycling equipment?

This has not been decided yet, however if food waste is collected for recycling then yes we will.

What if the container you provide is not big enough?

As it is proposed to collect recycling and food waste on a weekly basis the capacity (180 litre) of the container should be sufficient for the majority of households. It is acknowledged that larger families may need additional capacity and this will be supplied when appropriate.

If we are supplied with a container and I still have additional rubbish, can I leave additional rubbish by the side of the container for collection?

This has not been decided yet, although the current recommendation assumes that no additional waste will be collected (in line with the system other Local Authorities use). However, one-off occasions will arise and be accepted.

I don't have much rubbish - will I be able to have a smaller wheeled bin or re-usable rubbish bag?

It is great that you don't have much rubbish and are recycling all you can. It is not proposed to have a smaller option and for us to collect your rubbish you will need to put it out in your allocated container. If you don't have enough rubbish to put your bin out every other week, you could put it out monthly if you preferred to, as long as you are still recycling your food waste weekly. You may also find that you occasionally do create extra rubbish such as at Christmas, or when entertaining, or having a clear out, so you may find the extra space useful at these times.

Will I still have to continue to sort my recycling and put it into bags?

Yes.

How much will the new contract cost?

We will not know this figure until companies submit their bids.

Can you not collect rubbish and recycling yourselves (Local Authority Company) as some other Local Authorities do?

It has been decided to procure a new contract with an invitation for contractors to tender in 2018. This does not preclude a bid from a Local Authority company (e.g. CORSERV).

Will you introduce fines for recycling / rubbish?

This is not allowed under current legislation.

Will you be publicising the new service?

Yes, we will communicate extensively on the run up to the new contract to ensure that all residents are aware of what can be recycled and when. This will continue throughout the life of the contract.

Do you actually recycle anything?

Yes, last year (2016/17) we recycled and composted 42,656 tonnes from the kerbside. We do not collect anything unless we can send it to be recycled.

Where does my recycling go?

Kerbside recycling is taken to one of the two Materials Recycling Facilities at Bodmin or Pool and it is sorted and baled there before being sent for recycling to reprocessing facilities in the UK and Europe. Garden waste is composted and used on farms in Cornwall.

Will you collect anything else in future?

This has not yet been decided, although the current recommendation includes the collection of food waste. Other materials such as household batteries and cartons are also being considered for future collections.

Where does the recycling go, and what is it used for?

Please follow the link to our website which shows all of the destinations for the materials that we collect <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/recycling-collections/#-tab-475786>

Do you make any money from recycling?

Our recycling is sent to our waste disposal contractor Suez. They have to find markets and obtain the best possible price for the material. The Council shares the benefits of the price obtained with the contractor.

What about residents in flats with limited storage?

We will aim to develop the best option for residents in this situation, which may be a communal facility.

I already have a wheeled bin/re-usable rubbish bag - will I be able to continue to use it or may I have to swap to a wheeled bin?

This has yet to be determined, although we will try to minimise changes to current collections.

What if I currently have assistance with my recycling and rubbish, will that service continue?

There are no plans to change this service.

What if I have 'medical waste' that I can't store for 2 weeks? If we give you a wheeled bin you can double wrap your medical waste in plastic bags and it will be stored securely until collection.

If you don't have a bin or there's a reason you can't store the waste safely then we do have a clinical waste collection service. This is an appointment based service. If you contact us, we can talk through your needs with you and work out the best solution.

What consultation work are you doing/have you done?

We have already contacted a number of Local Authorities to understand their experience of waste and recycling collections. We have also received comments and thoughts from: The Chamber of Commerce, Sustainable Tourism, Cornwall Association of Local Councils. We have held/are holding 4 Localism summits throughout Cornwall. We are contacting residents through this survey and through a number of focus groups .