

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday, 13 October 2022

CABINET

Thursday, 20 October 2022

REVISIONS TO THE DOMESTIC WASTE AND RECYCLING POLICY

Report of the Executive Head of Neighbourhood Services

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Policy & Performance Scrutiny Panel:

- (1) **comments on the proposed revisions to the Domestic Waste & Recycling Policy.**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (2) **agrees the proposed revisions to the Domestic Waste & Recycling Policy.**
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Summary

On 22 July 2020 Cabinet approved changes to the Domestic Waste & Recycling Policy. In order to further improve and develop waste and recycling, provide clearer information for residents to help residents recycle and manage their waste, it is now timely to consider adjusting this Policy.

A number of changes are requested to be considered to enable the Council to meet its waste obligations and objectives.

Statutory Powers

The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011

The Environment Act 2021

Strategic Implications

1. The changes proposed will ensure that the Council is able to continue to meet its Minimising Waste and Maximising Resources objective in the Corporate

Plan 2015 – 2025. It is in the Council’s economic and environmental interests for residents in the Borough to reduce resource consumption.

2. The waste and recycling service is a significant part of the Council’s operations and expenditure, delivering key statutory, as well as discretionary, services and playing a significant role in the reputation and community leadership role of the Council with residents and other stakeholders. This includes helping to create a clean and attractive environment, responding to the Climate and Environmental Emergency and improving service efficiency.
3. The Government’s documents “Resources and waste strategy – Our Waste, our resources: A Strategy for England” (December 2018) and “Waste Prevention Programme for England: Towards a Resource Efficient Economy (March 2021)” set out priorities for action to manage resources and waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy, that these proposed changes support.
4. In July 2018, the European Commission adopted an ambitious Circular Economy Package (CEP) introducing a revised legislative framework to help stimulate Europe’s transition towards a circular economy, identifying steps for the reduction of waste and establishing an ambitious and credible long-term path for waste management and recycling. The UK government have transposed the majority of Circular Economy Package measures into UK legislation to include a recycling target of 65% by 2035 and reduce landfilled municipal waste to 10% by 2035.

Introduction

5. Revisions were last made to the Council’s Waste and Recycling Policy in July 2020. Minor changes to this policy are proposed in order to provide clearer and more information to residents and ensure the policy is up to date.
6. Responding to the Climate and Environmental Emergency remains critical, as is the need to ensure residents are also clear about their responsibilities and the Council’s responsibilities for managing their waste and recycling.
7. The proposed changes to policy set out in this report provide further information to enable residents to effectively manage their waste and recycling, reduce its impact on the local environment and provide further clarity about how to do this. It is also important the policy is easy to understand and is up to date. Appendix 1 sets out the proposed Policy, with the changes outlined by ‘tracked changes’.

Revisions to the Policy

8. The following amendments are proposed to the Waste & Recycling Policy:
9. **Bins** remain the property of the Council and all properties that have space for a wheeled bin anywhere within the boundary of the property will be required to use one.

10. **Bin capacity** – additional wording to mirror the website explaining what will be done about unauthorised bins and when a larger or additional black household waste bin may be issued to a resident. The supply of an additional black bin for children in nappies will be limited to three years.
11. **Collection points** – further guidance is provided for properties in private lanes/roads/driveways and that all collections will be made from the adopted highway.
12. **Non-collected bins** – when there is blocked access, advising that we will attempt to return on collection day or within 2 working days.
13. **Contaminated bins** – changing this to ‘incorrect items’ as residents do not always understand what ‘contaminated’ means and making it clear that incorrect items applies to all bins. Also explaining that residents can only pay for a re-collection if the incorrect items are removed.
14. **Replacement bins** – the charge remains for the replacement of black household waste bins, and this includes residents moving into existing homes if the black bin has not been left. If a resident cancels their garden waste subscription and then re-subscribes, they are expected to pay for the redelivery of the garden waste bin. These charges are currently being made.
15. **Bins for new developments** – developers are required to provide adequate storage for containers and easy access to collection vehicles. Neighbourhood Services and Planning Policy staff are working together to revise the Quality Places Supplementary Planning Document to ensure future developments have adequate waste and recycling storage space and access.
16. **Other waste collections** – homes being run as holiday lets are expected to pay for waste collections.
17. **Bulky household waste collections** – no refunds will be given for cancellations (this is currently in operation).

Financial Implications

18. There are no financial implications to the Council related to the proposals as set out in the proposed new Policy.

Risk Assessment

19. Changes within the Policy are designed to minimise the risks associated both with delivering the waste collection services and not reducing resource consumption.

Equality and Diversity Implications

20. The Equality Act is relevant to the decision in this report because the decision relates to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, or fostering good relations between different people. The proposed Policy changes have been reviewed against Equality Impact Assessment criteria and should not adversely impact people with protected characteristics. The charges being made for replacement household waste bins have been in place some time and no further charges are proposed. The changes promote the aims of The Equality Act and positively support them through the use of concessions for those facing social deprivation. Assisted collections for frail or disabled residents will continue to be made and no changes have been made to them. There are no further equality and diversity implications.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

21. The proposals to the Waste and Recycling Policy do not lead to an increase in Greenhouse Gas/CO₂, or damage ecology or the environment. The proposals seek to help reduce resource consumption, encourage households to take responsibility to manage their waste and recycling and help protect the environment. Proposals to collection points could reduce fuel usage.

Conclusion

22. The changes proposed to the Domestic Waste and Recycling Policy will support improvements to the management and operation of waste collection services and provide clearer understanding for households.
23. It is recommended that Cabinet agrees to adopt the revised Policy.

GALE SMITH
PROJECT MANAGER - WASTE

Date: 8 September 2022
Contact Officer: Gale Smith
Tel No:
e-mail: gale.smith@eastleigh.gov.uk
Appendices Attached: 1

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

None.

Appendix 1 Revised Domestic Waste & Recycling Policy



waste-policy-2021
revised 22 Sept 2022.