



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

Tuesday, 25 January 2022

Subject: Revised Waste Services Policies

Report by:	Assistant Director of Commercial and Operational Services
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Purpose / Summary:	This report provides commentary on the proposed Waste Service Policies resulting from the forthcoming introduction of separate paper and cardboard collections

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. That Members approve the proposed changes to the Waste and Recycling Operational Policies document, as set out in Section 3 of this report and in Appendix 1**
- 2. That the new changes be formally introduced from April 2022.**
- 3. That Prosperous Communities Committee agree that minor policy changes can be made by the Assistant Director of Commercial and Operational Services, in consultation with the Chair of Prosperous Communities Committee.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

Changes have been brought in following the enactment of The Environment Act 2021 which requires the separate collections of recyclables where Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practicable (TEEP).

Financial : FIN/165/22/SSc

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Staffing :

There are no additional resource implications, and these amendments should make it easier for Customer Services to administer, with reduced staff time in dealing with some requests. Temporary 'on the ground' and Customer Services staff will be required during the implementation period, Lincolnshire County Council are providing these extra resources.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

Waste and Recycling Operational Policies have previously been introduced following full equality impact assessments and no new issues are identified.

Data Protection Implications :

There are no data protection implications.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

These policies are designed to promote waste minimisation and facilitate recycling. Therefore, they will have a positive environmental impact locally and globally.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

The requirement for a Police incident number in order to supply replacement bins for those which are stolen will be removed. This policy placed unreasonable demands on both the Police and Customer Services. Stolen bins will be monitored through resident's history on the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system and any patterns reported to the Police.

Health Implications:

None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Appendix 1 – Revised Operational Services Policies

Risk Assessment :

Failure to amend Waste Policies to account for the new service regime could result in confusion for residents and contamination in waste streams.

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

X

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

X

1. **Introduction**

- 1.1 The Operational Services Policies document has been in existence for some years. It was first published to coincide with the introduction of the Triple Bin Scheme in 2009 and it has been updated to reflect changes in legislation, service standards and procedures since then. The current version is available on the WLDC website www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/wastepolicies.
- 1.2 This report provides commentary on proposed changes to the existing “Waste and Recycling Operational Policies” document, covering all refuse and recycling related services provided by the Council. The aim of this Policies document is to provide a standardised transparent approach, which can be used to manage the wider expectations of the service, as well as providing a basis for which service standards can be monitored.
- 1.3 The Council last considered its Waste and Recycling Policies document in 2018. It is now in need of a refresh following the enactment of the Environment Act 2021 and the forthcoming introduction of separate paper and card collections in West Lindsey, although it should be noted that most policies remain unaltered.
- 1.4 The Environment Act 2021 states that recyclable household waste in each recyclable waste stream must be collected separately, where this is technically, economically and environmentally practicable (also known as TEEP). The waste streams include the following:- glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, food waste and garden waste. It is considered that the two-stream recycling system to separate out paper and card is practicable in Lincolnshire, hence the imminent introduction of separate “purple lidded” bins.
- 1.5 With the introduction of the of the purple-lidded bin, customers will have a dedicated bin for paper and card and our focus should now be on the quality of material we collect, so we can successfully recycle more.
- 1.6 A contract has been let by Lincolnshire County Council (the Waste Disposal Authority) to Palm Paper Ltd in Kings Lynn. They have stipulated that the paper and card we deliver to them needs to be dry and of good quality, which means that we cannot collect extra side waste of paper and card. Therefore, all paper and card has to be contained within the “purple lidded” wheeled bin to ensure good quality.
- 1.7 The revised Operational Policies can be found at Appendix 1.

2 Proposed policies to be amended - For ease of reference, the Policies being reviewed are as follows: -

Policy 8 – separate paper and card collections;
Policy No 12 - presentation of additional recyclables;
Policy No 14 – missed collections;
Policy No 15 - stolen wheeled bins;
Policy No 18 – provision of wheeled bins for new properties
Policy No 25 – bin entitlement for Village Halls

2.1 Policy 8 - Separate paper and card collections

From April 2022, residents will be supplied with a purple-lidded bin for paper and cardboard only. Residents will be required to separate their paper and card from other recyclable items and present in their purple-lidded bin.

Revised collection frequencies for recycling will be implemented at this time, with both mixed recycling and paper and card bins being emptied every four weeks, with refuse remaining a fortnightly collection service in most areas. The exception to this change is properties mainly in the South West Ward of Gainsborough, these are terraced properties on a weekly sack collection service. The reason these are excluded is because the contractor does not currently accept paper and card which is contained within plastic sacks.

This change in service is necessary in order to comply with the Environment Act 2021, to enable the Council to collect a “twin-stream” of recyclables separately. The Council will collect mixed recycling (minus the paper and card) in blue bins and paper and card only in the purple-lidded bins. A separate contract has been let by Lincolnshire County Council to a dedicated paper mill to ensure this material is recycled effectively.

These new bins will be supplied free of charge until April 2024, after which time a charge will apply. The cost will be the charge applicable at that time for bins at new properties or any chargeable replacements.

2.2 Policy 12 – Presentation of additional recyclables

It is proposed that recycling side waste is no longer to be accepted for the reasons given below;

Side waste (extra waste left at the side of bins)

To encourage residents to make the best use of their recycling bins and maximise recycling, we already have a policy of not collecting any “refuse” side waste if left next to general waste bins. This policy will remain unchanged.

However, to maximise the recycling we collect, mixed recycling “side waste” is currently allowed.

The Council currently advertise that recycling side waste should be placed in carrier bags or in cardboard boxes and presented next to the blue recycling bin on collection day. Our current DMR contract (Dry Mixed Recycling) does not allow for plastic bags as these are classed as a contaminate. Also, cardboard should no longer be recycled as “mixed recycling” and should be placed in the new “purple lidded bins” and kept separate and dry. Therefore, the usual means of containing extra recycling cannot now be permitted.

With the introduction of separate bins for paper and card and the prohibition of side waste of this type, and for the reasons identified above, it is proposed that no side waste is allowed across all waste types.

For information, additional bins for mixed recycling are available for a one-off cost of £35.00 (as at 2021). Additional bins for paper and card are not currently allowed, as this scheme is still in its infancy and future need has not been demonstrated.

2.3 Policy No 14 – Missed collections

The current policy on returning for missed bins within five working days is to remain. However, because of the new recycling schedule, it should be revised to read “The Council will return to empty missed bins within five working days, wherever possible this will be collected with the same material stream”.

3.3 Policy No 15 - Stolen wheeled bins

Our current policy on stolen bins is that the resident is required to obtain a Police incident number before a free bin replacement can be provided. We will provide one free replacement in a three year period. The Police are reluctant to issue incident numbers in such cases, due to a lack of resources. Customer Services may receive calls about stolen bins and direct these to the Police, the calls are often returned without an incident number as the Police are not willing to provide this. This results in extra time dealing with the original request and causes frustration for the resident.

The stolen bin policy was introduced as a deterrent for spurious requests, but has caused issues since charges for wheeled bins were introduced in 2012.

It is proposed that the requirement to obtain a Police incident number be deleted, but previous requests for stolen bins are checked and a charge is made if a free replacement has already been supplied within the last three years. The charge is £35.00 (as at 2021).

2.4 Policy No 18 – Provision of wheeled bins for new properties

From April 2022, the minimum requirement for bins at new properties will be a black, blue and purple-lidded bin, with garden waste bins being optional. Purple-lidded bins (for paper and card) will, however, be provided free until 2024, after this time the current charge for wheeled bins will apply.

2.5 Policy No 25 – Bin entitlement for Village Halls

Village Halls and similar premises receive the same entitlement as for domestic properties. Therefore, they will be supplied with 1 x 240 litre purple-lidded bin free of charge. It is anticipated that most establishments of this type will receive their free bin upon implementation of the service and therefore, a charge is not likely to be applicable.

3 Summary

- 3.1 With the introduction of bins for paper and card there are changes needed to policies in order clarify the future service provision.

From April 2022, residents who already have wheeled bins will be required to have an additional purple-lidded bin in order to keep their paper and card separate from their mixed recycling. This applies to most households in the West Lindsey area.

There will be changes to the collection schedule of recyclable materials, in that bins for mixed recycling and paper and card will both be emptied every four weeks.

After April 2024, residents will be required to purchase a minimum of three bins for new properties. Before this date purple-lidded bins will be supplied free of charge.

- 3.2 The policy for collecting “side waste” should be amended to say that no side waste is allowed for any waste type.
- 3.3 The requirement to obtain a Police incident number is to be deleted, but previous requests for stolen bins will be checked and a charge made if a free replacement has already been supplied within the last three years. The charge is £35.00 (as at 2021).
- 3.4 Village Halls and similar premises be entitled to a bin for paper and card the same as for domestic properties.

- 3.5 The current Policy on charges for replacement bins is to remain unchanged, with only stolen bins (one in a three year period) or bins damaged by West Lindsey crews to be supplied free of charge.
- 3.6 The missed bin Policy is to be amended to so that it states we will return for missed bins and they will be collected with the same material stream wherever possible.
- 3.7 These amendments will come into effect in April 2022.