



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

Tuesday, 19 March 2024

Subject: Response to Motion at Council re: Review of Side Waste Policy

Report by:	Director of Commercial & Operational Services
Contact Officer:	Ady Selby Director - Operational & Commercial Services ady.selby@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To respond to a Motion submitted pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No. 10 at full Council on 6 November 2023 by Cllr Key

RECOMMENDATION(S): That Members:

- 1. Accept the Motion as presented to Council on 6 November 2023;
and**
- 2. Approve the adoption of the side waste policy as outlined at Paragraph 1.3 of the report and in the refreshed Waste Policies Document presented to this Committee today.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: Legislation relating to waste collection is guided through primary and secondary legislation including the Environmental Protection Act (1990) and the Environment Act (2021). All legislation is guided by the Waste Hierarchy which focusses on pushing waste up the hierarchy through preventing waste, reuse, recycling, energy recovery and finally disposal, as in the graphic below. The Side Waste Policy is designed to encourage waste minimisation.



Financial : FIN/152/24/MT/SSc

No financial implications arising from this report.

Staffing : None from this report

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

As there is no change recommended to the policy position, there will be no impact on equality or diversity issues.

Data Protection Implications : None from this report

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: The CESIA relating to this report is provided with the Operational Services Waste Policies Report. The principles of WLDC's side waste policy as a lever for waste minimisation remain unchanged and approving the adoption of the side waste policy as outlined at Paragraph 1.3 will preserve the existing environmental benefits. This report addresses the impact of the policy on environmental sustainability and carbon emissions throughout. It details the policy alignment with broader sustainability goals, emphasising the importance of waste minimisation in reducing carbon footprint. The report details how a 'no side waste policy' contributes to resource conservation, supports circular economy concepts, and maintains operational efficiency. It also discusses specific waste management strategies, including the provision of advice on effective recycling practices, underlining their relevance to the Council's commitment to a greener future.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: None from this report

Health Implications: None from this report

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

Wherever possible please provide a hyperlink to the background paper/s
If a document is confidential and not for public viewing it should not be listed.

Risk Assessment :

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

Introduction

At the full Council meeting on 6 November 2023, Cllr Key submitted the following Motion Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No. 10;

“Leader, the current side waste (Refuse) Policy adopted, I believe, in 2009, should be reviewed because it does not, in my view, comply with the Council’s commitment to becoming carbon net zero.

As it stands under the current policy, (refuse) side waste is not collected. After about 2 days, this refuse becomes fly-tipping and is collected by a caged van, then tipped at the waste transfer station, the weight then being recorded as street cleansing.

Leaving the side waste next to the bin to me is very counterproductive as collecting at source, means another team does not have to duplicate the task using more fuel and carbon emissions.

I urge members to support me in requesting that the Prosperous Communities Committee commits to formally reviewing the side waste policy within the 2023/24 financial year to ensure that the policy is in line with the Council’s commitment to reduce carbon emissions from its fleet of vehicles.

1. Response to Motion

- 1.1 Operational Services Waste Policies were last updated in January 2022, not in 2009 as the Motion suggests. These Policies are normally reviewed and updated bi-annually and adopted by Prosperous Communities Committee
- 1.2 The latest reviewed policy document is presented to Committee tonight for adoption.
- 1.3 Policy 11 addresses the issue of side waste and the latest iteration is shown below;

Policy 11: Presentation of Side Waste (Refuse)

The presentation of 'side' waste does not support waste minimisation principles or encourage residents to maximise recycling. Therefore, excess household refuse left beside the wheeled bin will not be collected, unless it is contained within pre-paid WLDC authorised refuse sacks.

Pre-paid authorised sacks are chargeable so as to provide incentive to residents to recycle and compost their waste at home, thereby reducing waste arising.

Should residents not be able to contain refuse within the bin, they may take this waste to their local Household Waste and Recycling Centre see Lincolnshire County Council's web page www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/recycling-waste for locations). Alternatively, residents can purchase pre-paid excess refuse sacks or utilise the Council's Big Bin Clear Out service (See Policy 28).

The Council will provide advice to residents on reducing their waste, upon request.

Should the resident continue to present unauthorised side waste, the Council will take appropriate enforcement action under the relevant legislation.

- 1.4 As outlined above, this policy is designed to encourage waste minimisation and promote recycling, both of which are pivotal in reducing our carbon footprint and combating climate change.
- 1.5 Policies that support waste minimisation are perhaps the most important step that Operational Services can take in reducing carbon emissions. It is not just a policy, but a necessity in today's climate crisis – and enshrined in law through the Waste Hierarchy. This is the familiar, “reduce, re-use, recycle” in simple terms.
- 1.6 By reducing the amount of waste generated, we are directly cutting down on the energy and resources required for waste management. This includes less fuel for collection vehicles, fewer emissions from waste

treatment processes. It preserves capacity in LCC's waste incineration plant at North Hykeham and reduces need for any future landfill space. Landfills are a major source of methane emissions, a greenhouse gas that is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

- 1.7 Moreover, waste minimisation has a ripple effect on resource conservation. By encouraging residents to think before they throw, we are indirectly promoting the sustainable use of resources, which is a cornerstone of a circular economy. This aligns with our broader goals of transitioning towards net-zero carbon emissions while enhancing the quality of life for our residents.
- 1.8 Allowing extra sacks per household would inadvertently encourage waste generation, which is counterproductive to our sustainability and Corporate Plan objectives. It would also put additional strain on our waste management infrastructure, leading to increased carbon emissions and operational costs.
- 1.9 Support mechanisms are already in place for residents who may have unique waste production needs, such as larger households or those with medical requirements. We also offer advice on effective recycling practices, which not only diverts waste from disposal but also reduces the energy-intensive process of producing new materials.
- 1.10 In response to the concern about street cleansing crews being used for waste collection, any residents who contact the Council regarding side waste which has been left by crews are advised to put the waste in their bin to be picked up on the next collection day. They are also offered the opportunity to receive advice around waste minimisation. Crews are not routinely sent back to collect side waste which has been left.
- 1.11 On occasion, there may be genuine reasons why the waste needs collecting and in these scenarios, we aim to minimise the environmental impact by directing the nearest available crew to collect any missed waste. This is a pragmatic approach to ensure that we are not duplicating efforts and thereby increasing our carbon emissions.

2. Recommendation

2.1 In conclusion, our waste management policies are designed with both operational efficiency and environmental sustainability in mind. Officers are committed to continually reviewing these policies to ensure they align with our overarching goal of a greener, more sustainable future for our community.

2.2 Therefore, it is recommended that the Motion be accepted and the side waste policy is adopted as outlined at Paragraph 1.3 and in the refreshed Waste Policies Document presented to this Committee today.