

WASTE COLLECTION POLICIES
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being))

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 10th July 2012, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) considered the report by the Head of Operations on the Council's Waste Collection Policies. The following paragraphs contain a summary of the Panel's discussions on the report.

2. THE PANEL'S DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1 The Panel has welcomed the fact that the Council's waste collection policies will now be available in a single document. Members have, however, suggested that they will form the basis for further policy development. In that respect, they have made some initial suggestions that might be considered.
- 2.2 Members have endorsed the proposed changes referred to in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 of the report by the Head of Operations.
- 2.3 It is recommended that the Council should produce guidance on how those items that the Council will not collect (Policy 10) should be disposed of. This guidance should be publicised. In addition, a comment has been made that advice should be made available on how to dispose of batteries and razor blades through the Council's service.
- 2.4 The Panel has discussed Policy 22 which, at present, prohibits stickers on bins. Members are of the view that this provides an opportunity to convey messages such as local speed restrictions. This is something that happens in South Cambs and it is supported by the Police. A pilot initiative is currently taking place in Huntingdonshire. The Panel recommends that, subject to feedback from the local community, this practice should be adopted in Huntingdonshire.
- 2.5 On a similar subject, the Panel has discussed the feasibility of removing the purple stickers on wheeled bins that identify residents who require assistance. It is Members' view that this identifies vulnerable residents and potentially creates a crime hazard. Members have been advised that the introduction of in-cab technology will enable collection crews to identify properties where residents require assistance so the need for purple stickers would be removed. Work on introducing in-cab technology will commence once route optimisation has been completed.
- 2.5 Generally, the Panel supports improved communications in relation to waste collection. It has been noted that a comprehensive communication exercise will take place towards the end of the year to explain new collection arrangements. The Panel's Waste Collection Working Group will be looking at ways of improving general communications in relation to waste collection.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Cabinet is requested to take into consideration the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) as set out above when considering this item.

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Background Documents - Reports and Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) held on 10th July 2012.