

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Waste Policies

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) –
17 June 2014
Cabinet – 19 June 2014

Executive Portfolio: Councillor D M Tysoe, Executive Councillor for Environment

Report by: Operations Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

In 2012 Cabinet approved a number of policies relating to the waste collection service. These provide clarity to residents as to the type and extent of the service they can expect. These policies were further updated in 2013 following the introduction of the charge for a 2nd garden bin, however further revision of some of the policies relating to this charge are required.

A number of queries have arisen recently in relation to the implementation of Policy 12 Collection Point for wheeled bins/sacks particularly in relation to more remote properties and this report proposes to further clarify this policy and provide clear guidelines on assessing the collection point for these properties.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that the revision to the Waste Collection Policies as detailed in Annex 1 is approved and implemented.

1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT/PURPOSE?

- 1.1 This report provides an update to the waste collection policies previously agreed in 2012 and 2013 in respect of charging for a 2nd garden bin and waste collection points.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following implementation of the charge for the 2nd garden bin, feedback was received from a small number of residents who wished to pay for more than one additional bin. When the charge was introduced in 2013 residents were limited to only one additional chargeable bin. Now the charge has been in place for nearly a year and renewal notices about to be sent out there is an opportunity to review this policy.

- 2.2 As the number of requests for an additional chargeable bin has been quite low, in terms of service delivery operationally there is the opportunity to increase the number of chargeable bins allowed to two per property. This will contribute to generating additional income for the Council and also allow those properties who generate larger amounts of garden waste additional capacity. The charge will remain the same, at £40 per bin for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2014.

- 2.3 The Council operates a collection point for waste at the edge of property where it meets the public highway. When the wheeled bin service was introduced, remote properties accessed from private/unadopted roads, where collections had taken place from the property, were continued with only new properties, or properties which were assessed following collection issues changed to a collection point on the public highway.

- 2.4 Collection of these remote properties can incur a significant amount of time for our collection crews. In addition many of these properties are located down roads in very poor condition and there have been instances where we have caused damage to our vehicles incurring vehicle repair and maintenance costs. These roads are not normally built to highway standard, often have soft verges and overhanging trees. In addition a number of roads have to be reversed down for considerable distances, sometimes in the dark, with no safe place for an employee to operate as a reversing assistant to see the vehicle safely back.

- 2.5 There have been a number of recent incidents involving our collection vehicles when undertaking remote collections, these include, a vehicle becoming stuck after a road edge gave way; a vehicle coming off a private road into a ditch in bad weather and . These have resulted in Officer time investigating complaints and dealing with insurance claims and the cost of having vehicles recovered (over £1000 in one case). The consequence of these types of incidents has meant that we have had to provide other crews and vehicles to cover the work which can affect service delivery.

- 2.6 As many of the arrangements are historical, we do not have exact figures of the numbers of properties that are likely to be affected by the introduction of this policy. Initial work to identify properties that may be affected show that there are likely to be approximately 300-400 properties that need surveying (some located down the same road), however a number already comply with the suggested criteria, so the actual number of properties affected is likely to be less than this.

3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ANALYSIS

- 3.1 The current historical arrangements could be continued, however there is inconsistency in how the service is being applied to remote properties. The adoption of a policy enables us to continue providing the service, but in a safe way that protects our employees, vehicles and the resident and is applied fairly across the district.

4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) will be considering and commenting upon this report.

5. KEY IMPACTS/RISKS? HOW WILL THEY BE ADDRESSED?

- 5.1 The key impact will be in relation to the need for properties on private lanes to present their waste at the junction with the public highway unless they meet the qualifying conditions in the policy. The affected residents will raise complaints through their elected representatives.
- 5.2 The clarification in relation to the policy on up lane collections will enable officers to enforce the provision and prevent the unnecessary cost to the council from repairs to vehicles, damage to private lanes and buildings.
- 5.3 To minimise the impact there will need to be a proactive communication with affected residents to explain the policy and to survey private lanes to see if they meet the criteria.

6. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 6.1 Subject to agreement of the policy change, requests for an additional chargeable bin for garden waste will be implemented from July 2014.
- 6.2 In respect of the change to Policy 12 Collection Point, this will be implemented over the next few months. Each location will need to be individually assessed and discussions undertaken with the property/land owner on future collection arrangements.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Each area will be individually assessed and residents contacted prior to any change of collection point.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no legal implications arising from the changes proposed to the waste policies as set out in this report.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The project will be managed using existing resources.
- 9.2 Due to the location of these properties across the district the time savings will be spread across days and collection crews. This will not result in a reduction in resources, however it will provide additional time for the crews to take on new property growth.

10. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Reduction in travelling distance will contribute towards fuel savings and reduced vehicle maintenance costs.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 11.1 To allow residents an additional chargeable garden bin.
- 11.2 To ensure the Council has a consistent policy in dealing with waste collection from remote properties located down private/unadopted roads and that this is applied fairly and consistently.

12. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Revision to Current Waste Collection Policies
Appendix 2 – Current Waste Collection Policies

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CONTACT OFFICER

Beth Gordon – Operations Manager
Tel No. 01480 388720