

TITLE: Waste and Recycling Policy 2026

Committee: Operational Services

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1.0 Issue

- 1.1. To consider the new waste and recycling collection policies and service standards to support the implementation of the proposed waste service.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. Members are requested to:
 - i. Approve the Waste and Recycling Policy 2026 and implement the policy in line with the roll out of new waste and recycling collection services in 2026.

3.0 Background/Options

- 2.1. The Council has a legal requirement under Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) to collect and treat household waste. The Council fulfils its collection duty by working with its trading company East Cambs Street Scene Ltd (ECSS)
- 2.2. The Council has not previously adopted a formal set of service standards or policies for the waste collection service, however with the changes proposed to the service in Committee report 9, a suite of policies and standards will ensure transparency and clarity for residents about the services they are entitled too, as well as ensure that the council avoids multiple or different arrangements /standards being deployed.
- 3.1. Up until now, the majority of service standards have been relatively simple to implement, especially as there has not been a restriction on the amount of black bag waste that can be presented by residents, coupled with a simple charging regime for recycling and garden/ food waste bins. This has been able to resolve specific situations for residents who produce larger volumes of waste, such as larger families and those producing healthcare waste etc.
- 2.3. As the Council implements a new waste bin and removes charging for additional recycling and garden waste bins (subject to approval by Council), there is a need to provide clear guidance for supporting resident's individual needs and give ECSS

autonomy to make day to day operational decisions as per the standards, as well as drive up recycling rates.

- 2.4. Residents in East Cambridgeshire are some of the most 'engaged recyclers' in the Country. The Council performs well against a series of metrics including the recycling rate, the recycling contamination rate, and the weight of residual waste produce per household. As the service adopts new collection methodologies, having a robust supporting policy in place will help the council maintain and improve performance. Achieving high performance across these measures has both an environmental and financial benefit to district.
- 3.2. The Waste and Recycling Policy aims to provide a clear overview of the waste and recycling services provided by the Council, ensuring residents understand what actions are required of them and what they can expect from the Council.
- 3.3. The Policy has been written to be accessible and helpful for residents, the focus of the policy is to support residents to use the service effectively, making the service easy to understand and to encourage more recycling as well as waste reduction.
- 3.4. The policy has also been written in consultation with Environmental Services, and consideration of the Council's already approved Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy. It is important to note that details will continue to be developed over the coming months.

4.0 Arguments/Conclusions

- 4.1. Appendix 1 sets out the new policies and service standards and below is a summary of some of the key changes:
 - 2.5. Introduction of a black wheeled bin to reduce the amount of residual waste a resident can place out for collection
 - 2.6. Free recycling and garden waste bins
 - 2.7. Processes to deal with recycling contamination and side waste
 - 2.8. Clear guidance on entitlement to different services depending on the size of the household or location (e.g. bin sizes or bags)
 - 2.9. Defined process for dealing with missed bins.
- 4.2. Adopting and formally documenting these policies will provide all stakeholders with a clear, consistent understanding of the services that the Council offers, and maintain and enhance service performance and resident experience.
- 4.3. Residents can be clear about the basis on which services will be provided by the Council and, in return, what the Council expects of them to ensure the provision of an efficient service that supports the District's objectives in terms of sustainable waste management.

5.0 Additional Implications Assessment

Financial Implications YES	Legal Implications NO	Human Resources (HR) Implications NO
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) YES	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) NO	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) YES

Financial Implications

These have been addressed within the proposals report (agenda item 9)

Equality implications

- 5.1 Waste collection is a universal service and therefore needs to be easily accessible to all residents. The new policy formalises existing practise for services such as Assisted Collections, and therefore there will be no changes to these services to support residents that cannot present their bins at the kerbside.
- 5.2 The introduction of a fortnightly black bin collection and supporting policy does restrict the amount of residual waste that can be put out for collection; however this service change is supported with ‘exception’ policies for those groups where this may have an impact, for example larger families, or for those residents that produce personal healthcare types of waste. Those that don’t meet the criteria, will also be supported through information from the Council on how to reduce their waste and the availability of free additional recycling bins. As there is currently incomplete data on who will need to use these services, it will not be possible to assess the scale of the impact until the new policies are implemented.

Data Protection Implications

- 5.3 Households that require a larger residual waste bin will need to provide information to prove that they meet the criteria as outlined in Appendix 1. The information collected will include household breakdown, which could potentially lead to information on children such as their age or other information such as health conditions.
- 5.4 The data will not be shared outside of ECDC. The data will be processed in the same way we currently process Assisted Waste collection applications, and its supporting evidence. When the application and evidence is received it is assessed and then the evidence is destroyed; either permanently deleted if electronic or via confidential waste if paper copies are submitted. The only exception to this will be in the case of children in nappies, where the date of births will be held in a password protected file, so that when the bi-annual check is completed, the dates of births can be cross referenced and be used to evaluate the need for a larger bin.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Waste and Recycling Collections Policy