

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	2 March 2022
Subject:	Tewkesbury Borough Council Domestic Waste and Recycling Collection Services Policy and Procedures - Review
Report of:	Head of Community Services
Corporate Lead:	Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Clean and Green Environment
Number of Appendices:	One

Executive Summary:

Waste and recycling collections are services which impact all households in Tewkesbury borough. It is important to have clear and concise guidance while remaining flexible enough to offer additional support where residents need it.

A review of our existing waste and recycling policy has been carried out to ensure that it is still fit for purpose and reflects best practice.

A litter bin installation and replacement protocol has been added to reflect the need for greater Council control of the number and location of new litter bins being installed in Tewkesbury Borough.

Other than the addition of this protocol, there are no significant changes to the policy proposed.

Recommendation:

To APPROVE the updated Household Waste and Recycling Collection Service Policy and Procedures.

Reasons for Recommendation:

Given the high-profile nature of the service, a regular review of our policy and approach is appropriate.

Resource Implications:

None, other than officer time.

Legal Implications:

Much of the relevant legislative background is recited in the body of this report and in its appendix. Neither the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) or central government's "Litter and Refuse: Code of Practice" make any provisions in regard to litter bins, being primarily concerned with cleansing practice and enforcement. The Council thus has considerable autonomy in introducing a litter bin protocol. The protocol will contribute to the fulfilment of the Council's statutory duty as Principal Litter Authority under section 89 of the EPA 1990 i.e. to ensure that relevant land for which it responsible is "so far as is practicable, kept clear of litter and refuse."

Risk Management Implications:

The waste collection policy does not introduce any new risk. The litter bin protocol looks to reduce potential risks of increased resource cost and worsened relations with Parish Councils and developers, by having an agreed protocol to refer to.

Performance Management Follow-up:

The effectiveness of the policy will be regularly monitored to ensure it remains appropriate and accurate.

Environmental Implications:

This policy will continue to provide residents with suitable solutions for disposing of waste whether in the home or while in public areas of Tewkesbury Borough.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Our previous waste and recycling collections policy was agreed in 2017 and set out the expectations for domestic collections including the sizes of bins used and frequency of collections. A regular review of this policy is required to ensure it is still appropriate for the current collection service.

1.2 Waste is deposited in litter bins when residents are using public areas around Tewkesbury Borough. There is currently no agreed approach of assessment or standardisation regarding the installation of litter bins. The scope of the domestic collections policy has therefore been expanded via the inclusion of a litter bin protocol appended to the policy.

2.0 POLICY REVIEW

2.1 The waste and recycling collection policy sets out what residents can expect from the Council's waste and recycling collections and what we expect of residents. The main elements of the service, such as the commingled recycling service and separate food waste have remained the same since the previous 2017 policy review. The size and number of bins issued are therefore still correct for refuse, recycling, food waste and garden waste collections. Frequency and location of bin collections remain unchanged with collections from the property boundary.

2.2 The collection policy addresses services used by smaller numbers of residents, such as assisted collections and clinical waste collections which offer important support to residents who require them. The bulky collection service is now provided by Orchard Recycling, but this has required only minor changes to the policy text.

- 2.3** Missed collections, side waste and complaints are included in the policy, so that residents are aware of what they can expect from the council once an issue has been reported.
- 2.4** The Environment Act (2021) includes plans for a new Resource and Waste Strategy for England which could have wide reaching impacts on local authority collection schemes. Several consultations have been issued in recent years around planned elements such as Extended Producer Responsibility, a Deposit Return Scheme and Consistency of Collections. This will likely impact the collection scheme operating in Tewkesbury Borough, whether services such as garden waste can remain chargeable and the quantities of certain materials being collected. The Council and the wider waste sector are waiting for government updates from the 2021 consultations to understand what the implications will be.
- 2.5** At a county-wide level, the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership will be releasing an interim waste strategy in 2022, as it is not possible to commit to long term goals until there is more detail regarding the national Waste and Resources Strategy.
- 2.6** A litter bin installation and replacement protocol has been appended to the waste and recycling collection policy with the goal of better managing litter bins in the Borough. Litter bins can currently be installed by Parish Councils or property developers with no oversight on the numbers or types of bins being installed. This has led to an unchecked burden of new litter bins being placed on the street cleansing service, where Tewkesbury Borough already has over 1,400 litter bins, placing it well above the national average litter bins per capita.
- 2.7** In specific locations there are health and safety issues of bins a long distance from access roads or lifting out heavy bags above a comfortable height. Dog waste bags can often weigh over 20kg, meaning the Council has a duty to reduce health and safety risks where possible.
- 2.8** The bin installation and replacement protocol aims to rationalise bin types and locations by focusing on new bins being installed whether in a new location or where replacing a damaged bin. This allows a gradual review as bins reach the end of their use through wear and tear, but also creates a platform for more targeted action if it is felt this is needed.
- 2.9** The protocol includes property developers. This allows for a review of litter bins where management company land on a development is being passed to local authority responsibility. For example, a developer may have installed many small litter bins with separate dog waste bins in unsuitable locations on a new development. The litter bin protocol will set out the Council expectations to support officers in their on site assessment, so that it can be a requirement to address the concerns before the change in responsibility.
- 2.10** The collection policy and litter bin protocol will be shared with Parish and Town Councils to ensure they are aware of the new approach and to open a dialogue with them on litter bins in their area.
- 3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**
- 3.1** No other options have been considered regarding alternate arrangements for collecting recycling and waste. The alternative regarding the litter bin protocol would be a business-as-usual approach, where resource need and health and safety concerns are a factor.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 While there is no formal consultation planned, Parish and Town Councils will be able to feed back on the plans.

5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

5.1 None.

6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

6.1 The Waste and Resources Strategy for England.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

7.1 Managed within current resources and budget.

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

8.1 None.

9.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

9.1 The litter bin protocol helps to improve efficiency of the street cleansing service and therefore reduce cost while addressing health and safety concerns.

10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

10.1 None.

Background Papers: None.

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Appendices: 1 – Household Waste and Recycling Collection Service Policy and Procedures.