

# REPORT TO COMMUNITIES P.D.G.

**REPORT OF: Waste and Recycling Service Manager**

**REPORT NO: WAR2013/003**

**DATE: 7 March 2013**

<b>TITLE:</b>	Recycling collection and Contamination- Policy Options	
<b>KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:</b>		
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:</b>	<i>Councillor John Smith Green, Healthy and Arts</i>	
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Pat Swinton, Service Manager- Waste and Recycling. Email- <a href="mailto:p.swinton@southkesteven.gov.uk">p.swinton@southkesteven.gov.uk</a> . Telephone- 01476 406570, 07712199075	
<b>INITIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS:</b>  Equality and Diversity	Carried out and Referred to in paragraph (7) below	Full impact assessment Required:  Not required
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:</b>	This report is publicly available via the Your Council and Democracy link on the Council's website: <a href="http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk">www.southkesteven.gov.uk</a>	
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		

## 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the policy adopted is that of a comprehensive education and communication policy until August 2013 and thereafter supports action to actively reduce the levels of contamination taken for reprocessing.

It is recommended that a robust policy is made and following the education campaign and individual education where appropriate individual bins are not collected or returned for until all the contamination has been removed. It is recommended that we do not accept the bins on residual collection.

It is recommended that this policy is communicated with our residents and the reasons for the policy explained.

## 2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report is intended to facilitate a decision as to the policy regarding the collection of bins which contain contamination.

## 3. DETAILS OF REPORT

### ***Background information***

In February 2012 a procurement exercise was performed in conjunction with Procurement Lincolnshire, South Holland District Council and North Kesteven District Council. The contract was regarding the depositing, disposal and reprocessing of the recycling of the districts. The exercise was performed in a joint manner in order to provide companies with the opportunity to offer greater savings or benefits to the districts by bidding for more than one of the contracts.

The contract we currently have does not expire until August 2013.

A rigorous evaluation was performed of the tenders offered by the companies. HW Martin was awarded the contract by both North Kesteven District Council and South Kesteven District Council.

### ***Contamination***

Contamination is all items which are contained within a recycling collection which are unable to be used in the recycling process, for example nappies, food waste, crisp packets or presented in a black bag. These items are specified by the contract provider.

Currently the contamination rate for our district is 10% this has recently risen from 7%.

Disposing of the contamination has additional implications to the contractor which can be passed onto the district council.

Where contamination is that high in a particular load it is possible for the contractors to refuse the load or assign the load for landfill. The cost of such is passed onto the service.

### ***Current Policy***

Currently there is no clear stance taken by the operational crews regarding the assessment for contamination. The few crews who do analyse a collection will leave a bin if it is felt to be contaminated or possibly the item is removed and the bin emptied as normal.

If it is not possible to remove the contamination then arrangements can be made to empty the bin as residual waste and removed and taken to landfill.

Advice and assistance is provided to the resident.

### ***Bartech System***

The service has recently introduced the Bartech monitoring system across the fleet. The system enables to pinpoint each collection point and relay data from the front line collection to the back offices.

The Bartech system enables a clear logging of whether a bin has contamination. It is important to the crews that the information they provide is used in an effective manner and for us to build a detailed picture of the contamination issues in the district

This information is available to the Waste and Recycling office and to Customer Services in close to real time and can be used to ensure that specific education can be provided to individual households.

### ***Education and Communication campaign***

Since the initial implementation of the fortnightly collections education regarding recycling has been performed through the use of SKToday, SKDC website, market and promotional road shows and school visits.

It is therefore the services intention to perform a detailed and targeted education campaign with the assistance of our communications department. It is intended that some of the following are used as a means to education our resident ahead of any policy regarding non collection of contaminated waste:

- Bill board advertising
- Panels on the sides of lorries
- Area targeted education campaigns
- Market stall road shows
- School talks and educational materials provided

Education and support will also be provided to our operational crews so they feel confident to assess a bin for contamination.

## **4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- a) No change – bins collected as landfill if deemed contaminated.
- b) No return to collect a bin which has been logged as contaminated.

## 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The current system is resource intensive with the customer being unsure as to why we have left a bin they normally call our Customer Services department who receive approximately 400 calls for the service.

A clear policy and guidance would enable a concise message to be passed to the customer providing education and reducing the calls to the help lines as a result of the bin being left.

Should the level of contamination remain at the current level or increase on the introduction of the new contract there will be financial implications.

## 6. RISK AND MITIGATION

Risk has been considered as part of this report and any specific high risks are included in the table below:

Category Risk	Action / Controls
Public and Media comments	A full and detailed explanation of the reasons the policy is needed, the steps we take to educate and assist our residents to limit any adverse effects
Financial implications	By reducing contamination financial penalties will be kept to a minimum

## 7. ISSUES ARISING FROM IMPACT ANALYSIS

There is no indication of any impact which would be detrimental to any of the protected groups. There is no restriction to the current service provision and any alteration is not perceived to have any differing effect

## 8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

None identified

## 9. COMMENTS OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

There is a communications plan currently being developed which will outline how to support the Council in tackling the contamination issues across the district. There has been no budget provision made for any costs associated with raising awareness and delivering the communications plan. Therefore, funding for this will need to be made within existing resources.

## 10. COMMENTS OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

The terms and conditions of the proposed recycling contract should give a clear indication of the provisions relating to contamination. The Council should make every effort to ensure that any contamination of recycled waste is reduced to avoid penalties under the terms of the contract.

**11. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICES**

**12. APPENDICES:**