



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 10 December 2024

Report of Councillor Rhys Baker
Cabinet Member for Environment and
Waste

Waste Policy Update

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

This report provides an update on the amended Waste Policy. The waste collection service at SKDC has undergone several changes since the Policy was last reviewed and updated. These include the introduction of twin stream recycling and battery collections. These service changes have been incorporated into the updated Waste Policy.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1. Review and provide comments on the updated version of the Waste Policy and recommend that the Policy is progressed to Cabinet.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Sustainable South Kesteven
Which wards are impacted?	All Wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 The updates to the Policy are within existing financial resources and therefore there are no financial implications arising from the report.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 There are no significant legal or governance implications arising from the report.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer

Community Safety

- 1.3 The success of the policy is reliant upon a successful partnership between the Waste Team and the Community Safety Team. These links are referenced within the policy document and will be key to its successful implementation.

Completed by: Ayeisha Kirkham, Head of Service (Public Protection)

Background to the Report

- 2.1. The Waste Policy document provides the residents of SKDC with an outline of the services provided and helps to manage their expectations regarding service delivery. Furthermore, it acts as a guide to decision-makers on how to handle issues and ensures that any issues are dealt with fairly and transparently.
- 2.2. The current Waste Policy was last updated in 2023, this was before the introduction of the twin stream recycling service and the kerbside collection of batteries. To ensure the policy is up to date, it has been edited to include SKDC's policy in relation to these waste streams.
- 2.3. A further update within this policy is the strengthening of the links between the Waste Team and the Community Protection Team. This relationship helps to ensure that issues which relate to waste but cause issues within the community, can be effectively addressed. This includes misuse of bins and incorrectly presented waste.

3. Key Considerations

3.1. The key areas of change within the document are:

- **Section 10:** Missed Bin/Sack Collections – this section outlines when the service will return for a missed bin and when they will not. It covers the Council's policy on rejected bins (this includes for contamination).
- **Section 13:** Battery Collections – this section outlines the Council's approach to collecting batteries at the kerbside.
- **Section 14:** Clinical sharps – the reference to direct deliver to the depot has been removed and collection of sharps bins is referenced as the only option. This is due to health and safety restrictions at the current and new depot; we will continue to accept direct delivery, and residents will not be turned away with sharps bins, however, we will educate and encourage those delivering to the depot to arrange a collection

3.2. These sections cover the Council's policy in relation to recent service changes and outline our response to common issues including missed bins. It is essential that the policy clearly and accurately outlines the Council's position on these issues as this will enable officers to make consistent and fair decisions when issues arise.

4. Other Options Considered

4.1. The other option considered was to delay the update until after the introduction of weekly food waste collections in 2026. However, this would risk creating ambiguity around our policies for waste collection and therefore an earlier update was agreed.

4.2. The Committee is invited to consider and recommend any further changes to the Waste Policy.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

5.1. Due to the introduction of twin stream recycling and kerbside battery collections, the Waste Policy required updating. The policies outlined within the document are all agreed working practices and therefore the policy document ratifies current practices and does not introduce new ones.

5.2. Based on this, it is recommended that the amended Waste Policy is supported by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and recommended to Cabinet for progression.

6. Appendices

6.1. Appendix 1: Waste Policy