



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 13 January 2026

Report of Councillor Rhys Baker
Cabinet Member for Environment and
Waste

Waste Policy Update

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on updates to the Waste Policy including changes to garden waste collection during winter periods and the addition of food waste collections.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- 1. Review and provide comments on the updated version of the Waste Policy.**
- 2. Recommend the updated Waste Policy 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Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?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 governance implications arising from the report.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

Climate Change

- 1.3 The proposed changes to alter current arrangements to waste collection offer potential to reduce fuel consumption from Council vehicles and therefore carbon emissions associated with operating a waste collection service. In particular, the proposed change to reduce winter garden waste collections is projected to reduce fuel consumption by around £15k, equivalent to 0.45% of the total fleet.

Completed by: Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager

2. 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 Members on how to handle issues and ensures that any problems are dealt with fairly and transparently.
- 2.2. The current Waste Policy was last updated in late 2024 to include twin stream recycling and battery collection. This latest updated draft version includes changes winter garden waste collections and details of SKDC's new food waste collection service; this has been designed in-line with the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) member authorities to ensure continuity in policy across district borders.

3. Key Considerations

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

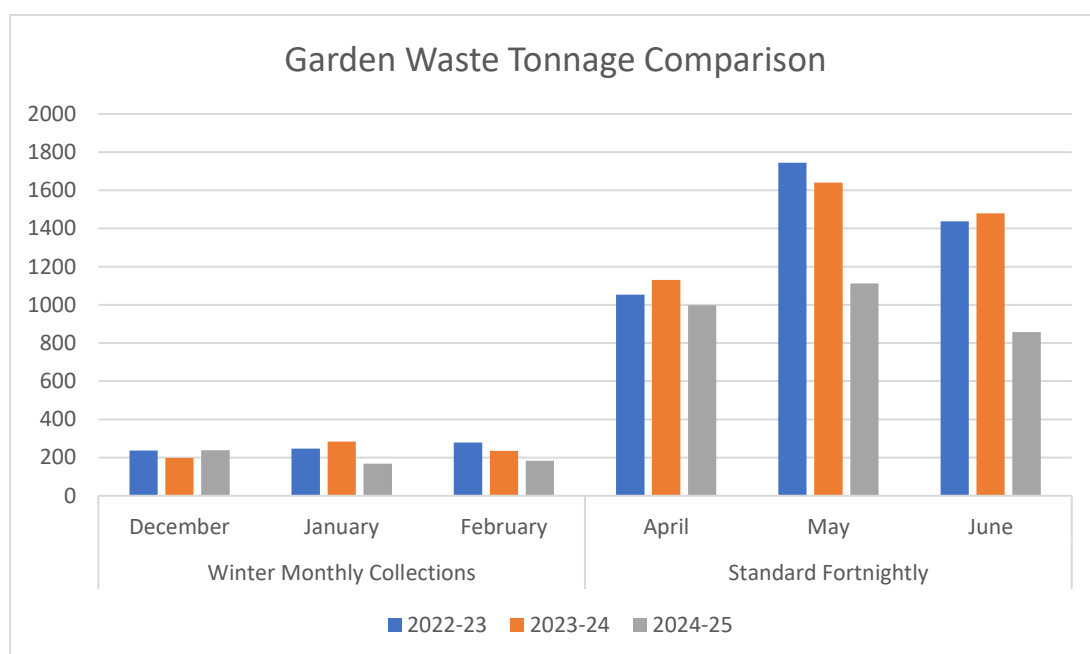
Section 3.5:

- The addition of orange lidded black caddies to the collection material description list. This has been added in anticipation of the rollout of food waste collections from April 2026.

Section 7.5 / 7.6:

- The removal of the January and February winter collections. This would take effect from January 2027.
- Table 1 shows a comparison of garden waste tonnages collected in the winter month collections and the tonnages collected in late spring/early summer. This clearly shows there is little demand for the service over the winter period, and the suspension of the service is in line with many Councils who provide a green waste collection service. Within Lincolnshire, West Lindsey District Council also offer fewer collections in the winter months and operate their service from March – November only.
- In addition to the low tonnages collected, in 2024/25 the winter collections used 3,950 litres of diesel, costing around £20,000 and creating 12.3 tonnes of CO₂e. By reducing the winter collections, it would reduce the Council's annual fleet emissions by 0.45%. The Christmas tree collection service will be retained, and this will take place during January, with specific annual dates being confirmed annually.

Table 1: Seasonal Garden Waste Tonnage Comparison



Christmas tree collections:

- Residents, who have paid for the garden waste service, will still receive a Christmas tree collection in January. This will reduce the resource requirement from four vehicles and crew to one vehicle and crew, thus, achieving the environmental benefits whilst still providing an essential service to paying customers.

- 3.2. These changes will be communicated to residents using multiple methods including bin stickers, bin calendars, social media updates and SKDC's website. A full Communications Plan will be implemented to ensure maximum effectiveness.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. The other option considered is to delay the update until after the introduction of weekly food waste collections in 2026. However, this would limit the clarity of decisions made around service delivery.
- 4.2. The Committee is invited to consider and recommend any further changes to the Waste Policy.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1. The updated policy reflects changes to garden waste collections and includes the new food waste collection service, which will be introduced in April 2026.
- 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 – Updated Waste Policy