



To: Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services
Report by: Jen Robertson - Waste Strategy Manager
Relevant scrutiny committee: Environment Scrutiny Committee 15/3/2011
Wards affected: All Wards

AMENDMENTS TO WASTE AND RECYCLING POLICY

Key Decision

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Household Waste and Recycling Policy was last amended in 2009 when the council changed to the commingled blue bin collection. There is a need to amend it again in order to include:
- policy information relating to new housing developments throughout the city
 - the proposed kerbside battery collection service
 - additional information explaining policy to make the document more user friendly because it is intended to make it available on our website
 - minor improvements in wording with no change to policy
- 1.2 The proposed changes for new developments include policies to support waste prevention/minimisation and the provision of underground facilities.
- 1.3 The policy document is attached at Appendix A with the additional sections on new developments (section 7) and batteries (section 18), The explanations or minor improvements are throughout the policy.
- 1.4 The information about the kerbside battery collection explains how the proposed scheme will work. More detailed information is given in a separate report on this Environment Scrutiny Committee agenda. It seemed sensible to cover this now as the policy document was already coming to committee.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- 2.1 To approve amendments to the Household Waste and Recycling Policy to cover waste policy for new housing developments, the proposed kerbside battery collection and other minor additions/changes as mentioned above.

3. Background

- 3.1 The new housing developments in Cambridge will be a source of significant additional costs in terms of waste and recycling services.
- 3.2 Section 106 provision requires developers to contribute to waste and recycling receptacles and public recycling point infrastructure but not costs associated with actual collections as these are covered by council tax.
- 3.3 The proposed changes to the policy document include providing houses with two bedrooms or fewer in new developments with a 140 litre refuse bin instead of a 240 litre bin. The other two bins for recycling would be 240 litres. Bin provision at existing properties would remain the same, although the council will continue to promote swapping to a smaller refuse bin. Other local authorities have similar policies for smaller properties in order to encourage waste prevention and recycling.
- 3.4 Underground storage for recycling is becoming increasingly popular with local authorities and there are several different but similar systems in use. Officers have looked at and continue to investigate these systems. They provide proven benefits in terms of :
- being aesthetically more pleasing than above ground facilities
 - reducing flytipping
 - certain systems provide efficiencies as they can be emptied less frequently i.e. the underground container is larger than some used above ground
- 3.5 There is one underground set of four recycling banks at Chesterton Road public conveniences. This has proved highly successful in terms of the first two points mentioned above.
- 3.6 The systems under consideration will require the authority to buy a new vehicle unless it proves possible to modify an existing vehicle. If a new vehicle is required the intention would be to incorporate this purchase into the existing growth or replacement programme, so that minimal capital expenditure in addition to that already planned would be needed. Officers recognise the need to maximise vehicle usage in order to be efficient, so compatibility with other usage requirements is

essential.

- 3.7 The design codes for the new developments of the Southern Fringe and North West Cambridge will enable developers to provide underground facilities for high density housing e.g. flats, and other housing if appropriate. There is also a requirement for them to provide public recycling points underground. These will be incorporated into focal points within the developments. Because some of these developments extend beyond Cambridge City boundaries into South Cambridgeshire, these proposals are being considered in consultation with officers from that Authority.
- 3.8 For the North West Cambridge (NWC) development the University is considering providing underground facilities for the three waste streams collected by the council throughout the development, instead of using wheelie bins. The proposal is that provision would be within a 30 metres radius of each property. (This 30 metres distance is based on guidance within the Building Control Regulations.)
- 3.9 There is no existing example in this country of underground provision to the extent proposed by the University for NWC. Officers believe this is an innovative proposal within a development that is intended to be innovative throughout. It presents an exciting opportunity. However, it is important that any issues that may arise are properly addressed and plans put in place to mitigate any risks. It is still early in the process and the intention is for all concerns/issues to be addressed through regular dialogue between the University and the council. This dialogue has already begun.
- 3.10 A paragraph about the proposed kerbside battery collection is included in the policy at Section 18.

4. Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial or other implications related to approving the changes to the policy document, although there may be indirect financial implications related to the cost of emptying underground facilities. Further work needs to be done in order to calculate these as there is some complexity around potential revenue savings related to reduced emptying frequencies and capital cost related to the addition of a crane to a collection vehicle either new or existing.

5. Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

6. Appendices

Appendix A: Amended Household Waste and Recycling Policy (2011)

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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