

Forest Heath District Council St Edmundsbury Borough Council

**WEST SUFFOLK WASTE
AND STREET SCENE
SERVICES JOINT
COMMITTEE**

14 JANUARY 2011

JWC11/038

**Report of the Strategic Director (Services) (FHDC)
and the Corporate Director (Economy and Environment)
(SEBC)**

RE-USE OF WHEELED BINS POLICY

Synopsis:

This paper seeks to gain Member approval for a new policy enabling the re-use of wheeled bins for residents and other customers.

Introduction

- 1 At the meeting of the West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee on 22 October 2010, Members noted the progress made to date against the actions specified in the Joint Service Plan for 2010/11 (paper JWC09/023X).
- 2 This report provides an update and summary of further progress against Task/Initiative 1 of the Joint Service Plan to further develop partnership working between the two authorities through the reviewing and developing of joint policies.
- 3 In order to support the joint service development and integration and to enable officers to work coherently and efficiently across both councils, it is imperative that our policies are aligned allowing for similar actions to be taken. Consequently, in conjunction with the development of this policy, officers will be reviewing the full range of current policies in place and undertaking a gap analysis to identify where specific policies are needed.
- 4 At this stage, in addition to this policy, the initial areas identified as requiring policy alignment are:
 - Bin distribution and procurement (sizes, colour)
 - Blue bin contamination procedures
 - Bulky waste collections
 - Abandoned vehicles
 - Fixed Penalty Notices
 - Side waste enforcement
- 5 As part of the development of the policies, account will be taken of the following, when applicable:

- Diversity and equality
- Consultation and communication with stakeholders
- Supporting environmental protection
- Affordability

Background to wheeled bin provision

- 6 As Waste Collection Authorities, Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council have a statutory duty to arrange for the collection of household and commercial waste throughout the area.
- 7 As part of the duty, section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) includes the power for the council to determine the nature, size and number of receptacles to be provided (if any) to facilitate the collection of the waste. Both councils have adopted an approach using standard sized wheeled bins, with the provision of sacks for hard to reach locations.
- 8 Following the implementation of an Alternate Weekly Collection (AWC) in 2004, both councils provide a three bin kerbside collection for residual, recyclable and compostable green kitchen and garden waste. In addition to bin(s) provision for new properties, bins are also provided following requests from residents and customers due to their bin(s) becoming stolen, missing, worn out or damaged.
- 9 In the delivery of this approach, wheeled bins are procured collectively, stored at all depot sites and are distributed to customers free of charge and on demand. For both environmental and financial reasons, it is also expedient to re-circulate used bins, which may have become available due to customers requesting different sized bins, sharing bins or following repair of previously damaged bins e.g. the replacement of bin lids or wheels.
- 10 The reuse of second hand bins is not only cheaper than buying new bins but it is also more sustainable as it extends and maximises resource use and displaces the requirement to dispose of the bins at an earlier phase of their life cycle.

Proposed Policy approach

- 11 At present an ad hoc arrangement is in place at both councils for the distribution of second hand and new replacement bins. In view of this and the benefits outlined above, the following policy statement is proposed:

Policy Statement

The council will have full discretion to supply the available stocked bin(s) (new and second-hand) when requested by household and commercial customers, as long as the following provisions are met:

1. The bin is of the appropriate size and is the colour associated with the collection scheme for which the bin is required;
2. The bin is in full working condition, in terms of the lifting rim,

handles, wheels and lid, and has no defect hindering its correct use;

3. The bin is clean and sufficiently free of odour. This excludes normal wear and tear, commensurate with its age; and
4. No paint or sticker identification is left on the bin.

It is normal that new properties are allocated new bins on demand. However, both councils have the right to vary this policy subject to approval and to be excluded from provision (1) in emergencies e.g. bin shortages.

- 12 It is expected that this policy will take effect immediately. It should also be noted that FHDC and SEBC do not intend to purchase used bins to distribute to residents.

Finance/Budget/Resource Implications

- 13 As mentioned above, the approval of this policy is expected to demonstrate value for money by prolonging the bin's useful lifespan and may provide financial savings shared between the authorities. As an example, from August 2009 to November 2010, 33 tonnes of old/damaged wheeled bins were sent for recycling from the Bury St Edmunds depot. As the average weight of a 240lt household bin is 15.5kg, this equates to approximately 2,100 240lt wheeled bins. This is likely to reduce following the adoption of this policy.

Environmental Impact and Sustainability

- 14 Extending the use of wheeled bins will have a positive impact on our overall carbon footprint and will contribute positively to the provision of sustainable waste and street scene services.

Policy Compliance/Power

- 15 The re-use of wheeled bins policy is in line with the Partnering Agreement.

Performance Management Implications

- 16 There are no performance management implications.

Legal Implications

- 17 The supply of appropriate receptacles is in line with the provisions of Section 46 of the EPA.

Human Rights Act and Diversity Implications

- 18 There are no human rights or diversity implications.

Crosscutting Implications

19 Both councils are working together to deliver the Joint Service Plan and will engage with other council departments and external groups where appropriate.

Risk Assessment

20 There are no risks associated with the re-use of wheeled bins policy.

Council Priorities

21 This policy contributes to the following priorities:

Forest Heath:

- Community safety; and
- Street scene and environment.

St Edmundsbury:

- Raise standards and corporate efficiency;
- Improve the safety and well being of the community; and
- Secure a sustainable and attractive environment.

Recommendation:

22. It is recommended that Members:

- 1. Note the work to align current and new policies; and**
- 2. Agree the policy proposal outlined in paragraph 11.**

Documents Attached

None

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6 January 2011

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6 January 2011

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