

Meeting: Special Cabinet
Date: 30 January 2024
Classification: Part 1
Key Decision: Yes
Title of Report: Wheeled Bin Suitability Criteria Policy

Executive Director: Alan Richards, Executive Director for Environment and Place
Report Author: Nicola Watts, Interim Waste Procurement Contract Manager
Executive Councillor: Councillor Davidson, Cabinet Member for the Environment

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. A Wheeled Bin Suitability Criteria Policy is required in order to implement the delivery of a transformed Recycling and Waste service, moving from a weekly sack service to a fortnightly wheeled bin service.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1. Adopt an overarching policy that sets out how the Council and its recycling and waste collection contractor will assess properties in Southend-on-Sea City for their suitability to receive and accommodate wheeled bins for the collection of household recycling and waste under the new services to be rolled out during 2025.

3. Background

- 3.1. The current waste collection methodology is delivered by Veolia ES (UK) Limited ("Veolia") under the Waste Collection and Street Cleansing Contract which started in October 2015. The 8-year contract which expired in October

2023, has been extended until October 2024, with the option to extend for a further 6-month period to April 2025.

- 3.2. A procurement process is underway for delivery of waste collection services from April 2025. As part of the new contract, the new service provider will be required to transition the services to the new collection methodology for both residual and recycling waste by the end of October 2025.
- 3.3. The final recycling and waste collection methodology solution will be defined in the next stage of the procurement process with bidders' final solutions to be received by the Council in April 2024.

4. Service Outline

- 4.1. The new collection methodology consists of a fortnightly residual waste service from wheeled bins, and a recycling service which is yet to be defined. The recycling service is likely to be from either 1 or 2 wheeled bins.
- 4.2. In order for wheeled bins to be rolled out to all low-level properties an assessment will be undertaken by the new contractor.
- 4.3. The proposed Wheeled Bin Suitability Criteria Policy is outlined in Appendix 1. It sets out the overarching criteria, how exemptions are to be identified and how an appeals process will operate to challenge any decision made using the criteria.

5. Reasons for Decisions

- 5.1. To ensure a fair and consistent approach to assessing all properties is approved in advance as a key decision for the Council.
- 5.2. To give clarity and transparency on the approach to be taken for the procurement, and the delivery of the service.

6. Other Options

- 6.1. A decision to transition to fortnightly waste collections was made by Cabinet on 31st October 2023 following consideration of other delivery options. To meet the objectives of delivering a fortnightly waste collection, the standard service containment requires collection of residual waste from a wheeled bin.
- 6.2. Sack collection will be offered to those households that cannot accommodate a wheeled bin.
- 6.3. It is anticipated that recycling services will use a wheeled bin which has a similar footprint to alternative options such as a recycling boxes and sacks.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The new Standard Recycling and Waste Collection Methodology will be offered, where possible, to all low-level, kerbside properties. This methodology which collects residual waste from properties on a fortnightly basis from a wheeled bin maximises efficiencies across the services.
- 7.2. A robust but fair policy will help drive these efficiencies by minimising the number of households adopting any alternative method and maximising the number of households receiving the Standard Waste Collection Service.
- 7.3. Although this Wheeled Bin Suitability Criteria Policy will not have any direct financial implications, the transition to wheeled bins will have. It is currently anticipated that the wheeled bins themselves will be purchased by the contractor and paid for through the waste collection contract. This is all currently considered within the medium-term financial forecast after the initial solutions were submitted by bidders.
- 7.4. Storing waste in wheeled bins will reduce the amount of street cleansing due to less damaged sacks and overspill of waste. Containerisation of residual waste will also help reduce the prevalence of pests and rodents and will

further encourage recycling which it is anticipated will reduce the cost of disposal of residual waste.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 Waste collection is an executive function which falls to the Cabinet to determine.

8.2 A change to the waste collection will have direct impact for residents and businesses. It is important that Cabinet provides clear policy so that the public can understand how the service will be provided. It will also ensure there is clarity in contractual arrangements so that performance can be managed and monitored more effectively.

9. Policy Context

8.1 The adoption and application of this Wheeled Bin Suitability Criteria Policy will contribute to delivering the Council's Corporate Plan priority for a clean city with a resilient environment and a transforming council delivering efficient, cost-effective services.

10. Carbon Impact

10.1. Adoption and application of this Wheeled Bin Suitability Criteria Policy will reduce the carbon impact by ensuring more households receive the Standard Waste Collection Methodology which in turn promotes waste reduction and will encourage increased recycling leading to less waste being sent to landfill.

11. Equalities

11.1. An equalities impact assessment was completed in January 2022 which considered the impact of adopting wheeled bins for both residual and recycling waste.

- 11.2. The assessment identified all groups across the Southend-on-Sea City area and a range of options to support these groups in accessing and participating fully in the services offered.
- 11.3. Overall the impact was positive with the use of wheeled bins supporting people with storing and moving their waste more easily.
- 11.4. A range of Policies will be adopted to support a range of groups (e.g. assisted collection policies and larger household policy) including tailored communications and better access to report issues and book services via improved technology and dedicated Council phone line.
- 11.5. A further Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed once the new service options are finalised.

12. Consultation

- 12.1. No consultation has been completed as there is no legal duty to consult.

13. Appendices

- 13.1. **Appendix 1:**
Wheeled Bin Suitability Criteria Policy

14. Report Authorisation

This report has been approved for publication by:		
	Name:	Date:
S151 Officer	Joe Chesterton	17 January 2024
Monitoring Officer	Kim Sawyer	16 January 2024
Executive Director(s)	Alan Richards	17 January 2024

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Meg Davidson	17 January 2024
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