

# **Report to Place Scrutiny Committee**

**Date of meeting: 2 July 2024**



**Portfolio: Contracts Delivery (Councillor Ray Balcombe)**

**Subject: Waste Management Operational Policies**

**Officer contact for further information: David Marsh email: [dmarsh@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:dmarsh@eppingforestdc.gov.uk) (01992 564889)**

**Democratic Services Officer: L Kirman: email: [DemocraticServices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:DemocraticServices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk) tel:01992 564243)**

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## **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

To review the five waste policies listed below, consider the proposed changes, and recommend the changes to policies to Cabinet.

- Exception Policy
- Flats and Communal Buildings Policy
- Supply of Waste and Recycling Services Policy
- Contamination Policy
- Container Policy

## **Report:**

The Waste Management Service has had several operational policies in the supply of the street cleansing, waste, and recycling collection services for several years. With the start of TVS Ltd in November 2024 it was decided to review the policies and update them where necessary to be clearer in our expectations and ensure the extent of that service is understood. Also matters that are “custom and practise” over the years need to be formalised for the future.

For clarity the changes to the existing policies are highlighted in red in the attached documents. Any word removal is shown in green.

### **1. Exception policy (Appendix 1)**

There are two sets of changes to the policy to make it clearer, the first is that the residual (refuse) bin does not contain any recyclable materials that we currently collect separately.

The second is clarifying the wording that clinical waste is collected free of charge but could be subject to a charge in the future.

### **2. Flats and Communal Buildings policy (Appendix 2)**

This change is to formalise and reflect how collections are made and defining the criteria for the collection of waste which requires the need to drive a collection vehicle to a bin compound or similar to collect the waste.

The additional wording is *the council does offer a concession to the policy of boundary collection. Collection vehicles can enter private roads including car parks or courtyards to access a bin compound for waste collection purposes once (written preferably) permission has been granted by the owners or managing agents. This will be on the condition that the council will not be liable in any way for wear and tear or damage to the road whatsoever.*

It also puts the responsibility onto managing agents for flats and housing developments with bin compounds that have key codes or keys to keep EFDC up to date with changes regarding key codes or keys and to give EFDC sufficient time to implement the required changes instead of informing us after the event where there is an expectation that we will collect the waste as a missed collection and viewed as a service failure.

### **3. Supply of Waste & Recycling Services policy (Appendix 3)**

The change to this document is the same as the additions in the flats and housing developments with communal bins policy regarding private land. The additional wording that has been added to the policy is *the council does offer a concession to the policy of boundary collection. Collection vehicles can enter private roads including car parks or courtyards to access a bin compound for waste collection purposes once (written preferably) permission has been granted by the owners or managing agents. This will be on the condition that the council will not be liable in any way for wear and tear or damage to the road whatsoever.*

### **4. Contamination policy (Appendix 4)**

The first change is the removal of the word “significant”. The council needs to be clear in its messaging that no contamination of the refuse is acceptable. EFDC need to continue to drive out all possible recycling materials into the correct waste stream to reduce our waste that is not recycled. EFDC need to continue to work with our residents to help them understand what is and what is not acceptable in the different waste collection services to control the possibility of rejected loads and the costs that it will incur.

The costs of contamination in the past have been borne by the contractor. This will not be the case with our new Dry Mixed Recyclables (DMR) contractor as the council will be directly contracted going forward.

The second change is adapting the wording to incorporate the Blue Lidded Wheelie bin for recycling and the change in technology at the recycling plant/s that can now accept glass in with other recycling materials.

### **5. Container policy (Appendix 5)**

The change is adding the Blue Lidded Recycling Bin for all dry recycling including glass for properties that are a part of the trial.

#### **Reason for decision:**

To ensure the waste policies are updated to be clearer in our expectations and ensure the extent of that service provided is understood.

**Options considered and rejected:** No changes made to policies, but this was rejected as it would lead to ambiguity and misunderstanding of the policies.

**Consultation Undertaken:** Waste Management Team and Portfolio Holder for Contracts Delivery

**Resource implications:** Relevant resource implications as part of the delivery of the project and will be addressed accordingly by the Service Director/and or project leads. The policy changes will be implemented as part of the waste management budget.

**Legal and Governance Implications:** There are no legal or governance implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The reason for the proposed decision is to ensure EFDC can maintain and appropriately manage its statutory duties around domestic and commercial waste collections.

**Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:** It is hoped that the changes to the policy documents will lead to less contamination and improve recycling rates.

**Background Papers:** N/A

**Risk Management:** Risk register and logs regularly reviewed and updated by the Waste Management team.

**Equality:** An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out and there was no significant impact.

**Key Decision: (if required):** N/A