

7. Exception Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with the Essex Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, through ensuring that smaller containers are made available to residents who request them and that larger or additional containers are only provided subject to strict qualification criteria, and to comply with the requirements of sections 46(3)(a) and 46(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The previous policies set out the core arrangements for the waste service and the exemptions to those policies. However, it is recognised that there may be circumstances where special arrangements or changes to the core collection arrangements are required.

Assisted collections General:

Assisted collections will be made available to residents who, upon assessment, are deemed to be unable to use the core waste collection services without assistance from the Council or its contractor. Each case will be treated on its merits. Examples of issues requiring assisted collections include:

- disability.
- Age.
- Illness or infirmity (may require temporary arrangements).

All requests for a smaller wheelie bin will be granted.

Residual waste collection – larger bins for individual properties:

The standard size of a residual wheelie bin is 180 litres. A larger, maximum 240 litres, wheelie bin for residual waste can be issued following a positive assessment.

- (1) Any applications received for a larger wheelie bin will be assessed against the following criteria:
 - the size of the household.
 - The ages of any children in the household and whether any are in nappies (any allowance will automatically end when the child is three years old).
 - That **full** recycling of all materials collected by the Council's recycling services is being made, and continues to be made during the issue of the larger bin.
- (2) The Council reserves the right to review at any time the use of a larger wheelie bin, and to replace it with the next lowest size or the standard 180 litre wheelie bin should it be considered that household circumstances have changed.

Exception Policy (Continued):

Food and garden waste recycling service – additional bins:

- (3) There is no legal right to a free garden collection service, **but** the Council will collect, **free of charge**, any garden waste contained within the standard 180 litre wheelie bin provided for the food and garden recycling service.

Any additional bins that are issued and collected free of charge are solely at the Council's discretion and may be withdrawn at any time.

- (4) Following a positive assessment by officers, a second 180 litre food and garden waste wheelie bin will be provided upon request. The assessment will take into account factors including the following (this list is not exhaustive):
- whether the resident is making full use of all available options to compost or otherwise manage the amount of garden waste being produced. This will be by the use of compost heap/s and compost bins.
 - Whether the amount of food waste being recycled is such as to compromise the capacity available for garden waste.
 - Whether, in all cases other than where an assisted collection is being provided in accordance with this policy, the garden waste is being produced by the activities of the resident and that no garden waste is being produced wholly through the resident employing a commercial gardening contractor.
- (5) The collection of the second food & garden wheelie bin will **initially** be **free of charge** but the Council reserves the right to review this position at any time and further reserves the right to introduce a charge for this additional collection service.
- (6) If a resident chooses to opt out of the garden waste collection service, they will be able to do so but a second wheelie bin **will not** be provided.
- (7) Where a resident has opted out of the garden waste element of the service, they **will be required** to participate in the food waste recycling service and will be provided with a kitchen and kerbside caddy.

Medical assistance bins for residual waste:

- (8) Additional capacity for residual waste collection is available for medical reasons and will be assessed against the following criteria:
- (i) applicants must provide medical evidence with their application.
 - (ii) The size of the bin or additional capacity will be related to the actual amount of waste generated by that particular illness.
 - (iii) If there are other residents within the household, or if the resident receives 'home help', that full recycling of all materials collected by the Council's recycling services is being made and continues to be made during the issue of the larger bin.

Re – assessment of approved applications

Additional capacity (all sizes of wheelie bins). Residents who have had a bin larger than the standard 180 litre capacity for more than three years will be asked to complete a questionnaire to enable an assessment of whether they should continue to keep the larger bin. Applicants who fail to meet the criteria for the larger size bin will have their bin replaced with the next lowest size (providing the criteria are met), or a standard 180 litre bin.

All assisted collection applications of three years or older will be reviewed and residents asked to complete a questionnaire. Applicants who fail to meet the criteria will have the service withdrawn and be required to present their waste at the boundary of their property and the public highway.

The Council reserves the right to re–assess any application for additional capacity/assisted collection at any time.

Clinical waste that cannot be collected within the normal residual waste stream will be collected free of charge, and may in the future be subject to a collection charge.