



Policy and Resources Committee – 11 March 2013

Policy 14 - Contamination of Recycling Containers (additional information)

Purpose of report

This report presents an additional strategy for dealing with contaminated recycling that has been developed as part of Policy 14 of the waste and recycling collection service policies. This is to be used in conjunction with the previously approved “new waste and recycling collection service policies” approved at the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 11 April 2011 and further additions on 5 December 2011.

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1 - Policy 14 – Contamination of Recycling Containers (additional information)

Appendix 2 - EIA Impact Assessment.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 As part of the on going management of the waste and recycling service it is necessary to produce supplementary information to give detail with regard to promoting good behaviour in the use of the waste collection and recycling service to sit alongside the Wheeled Bin policies 1 – 17.
- 1.2 In February 2013 Defra stated their intention to introduce mandatory composition sampling to provide information on the quality of recyclate produced by materials recycling facilities (MRFs) to demonstrate compliance with the separate collection requirements of the revised Waste Framework Directive. The purpose of the proposed MRF Regulations is to help stimulate the market conditions necessary to improve the quality of the material produced by MRFs so that it can be more readily recycled.
- 1.3 As sampling becomes mandatory MRF operators will enforce contract tolerances for contamination as the requirements of the Waste Framework Directive have significant commercial impacts, if they are not met.
- 1.4 At present the current contract for the collection of waste and recycling includes a tolerance of 10% of the total material collected being contaminated before rejection. Anything which exceeds this level will attract charges to the Council of approximately £100 per tonne.
- 1.5 Following some composition analysis of the recycling waste stream conducted at the MRF that East Northamptonshire material is sent, found that the level of contamination was at 10.1%, with a high level of this material being made up of textiles and food waste.

2.0 Wheeled Bin Policy document

- 2.1 The policy document attached at Appendix 1 contains information on the policy that the waste management team will use when dealing with incidents of persistent contamination of recycling.
- 2.2 The strategy has been discussed at the meeting of the Waste and Recycling Working Party on 24 October 2012 and it was agreed that this would be taken forward to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee to become included as part of the

overall waste and recycling service policies.

2.3 The Customer Service team and the Waste Team will monitor addresses that continue to have recycling containers rejected for contaminants based on information provided by the collection operatives during the operation.

2.4 The waste management officers will also conduct ad hoc checks on the quality of material that is presented on collection day and will if required instruct the collection operatives not to collect any containers that are found to be heavily contaminated.

3.0 Equality and Diversity implications

3.1 An equality impact assessment has been completed and is attached at Appendix 2.

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 In line with section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the council is obliged to collect waste within its area. Under section 46 of the same act the council may specify the size and type of containers and the frequency of those collections.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 Without the addition of this strategy the risk of contaminated recycling is higher. Given that existing analysis shows that the waste stream is already at tolerance for contamination, the next step will be for the re-processor to pass back to the Council the costs for disposal to land fill for any waste which is not suitable for recycling. Without implementing this strategy, the Council has very little to defend ourselves from the contractor taking the view that we are not fulfilling our contractual obligations in terms of doing all we can to preserve the quality of the recyclable material and this would strengthen their case with regard to a claim for damages / costs which may be passed to them by recycling re-processors.

5.2 While it is difficult to estimate a total cost, by way of information, each collection contains approximately 4.5 tonnes of material and cost per tonne to landfill is somewhere in the region of £100 per tonne.

5.3 Each lost load could cost the Council approximately £450 in disposal costs and £185 in lost recycling credits.

5.4 Losing one single load per week could cost the council £33,000 per annum.

6.0 Corporate Outcomes

6.1 The recommended decision will help deliver the following corporate outcomes:

- Good Quality of Life – Cleaner
- Good Value for Money – providing value for money services to customers
- Effective Partnership Working – developing a range of services with contractor for the benefit of customers.
- Effective Management – Providing a good value, useable service
- High Quality Service Delivery – providing quality services which are comparable to the private sector
- Strong Community Leadership – developing recycling services for other premises

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 The committee is recommended to approve the protocol for dealing with persistent contamination.

(1) To ensure consistency of approach to all users of the waste management

service.

- (2) To provide service standards for both users and contractors in the day to day operation of the service.
- (3) Approve the Equalities Impact Assessment provided in Appendix 2

Legal	Power: section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990				
	Other considerations:				
Background Papers:					
Person Originating Report: Charlotte Tompkins, Waste Manager, ctompkins@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk					
Date: 18 February 2013					
CFO		MO		CX	

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 22)



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Wheeled Bin Policy



Policy 14 – Contamination of Recycling
Containers (additional information)

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format (large print, tape format or other languages) please contact us on 01832 742000.

Document Version Control

Author (Post holder title)	Charlotte Tompkins
Type of document (strategy/policy/procedure)	Strategy
Version Number	1.0
Document File Name	Wheeled bin Policy Additions March 2013
Issue date	
Approval date and by who (CMT / committee)	Waste and Recycling Working Party
Document held by (name/section)	
For internal publication only or external also?	Internal and external
Document stored on Council website or Eunice?	Website
Next review date	

Change History

Issue	Date	Comments
1.0	March	

NB: Draft versions 0.1 - final published versions 1.0

Consultees

Internal	External
e.g. Individual(s) / Group / Section	e.g. Stakeholders / Partners /Organisation(s)
Waste and Recycling Working Party	Kier Environmental

Distribution List

Internal	External
e.g. Individual(s) / Group / Section	e.g. Stakeholders / Partners /Organisation(s)

Links to other documents

Document	Link
Waste and Recycling Collection Service Policies	http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/downloads/Item_9_waste_policies_report.pdf http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/downloads/Item_8_Wheeled_Bin_Policy_Add_Rpt.pdf

Additional Comments to note

Contents		Page
	Executive summary	5
1.0	Introduction	6
2.0	Statement of intent	6
3.0	Scope	6
4.0	Policy Statements	6

Executive Summary

This document details the policy for dealing with incidents of contaminated recycling containers. This should be read together with the Waste & Recycling Collection Service Policies, particularly policy 14 which were approved and adopted by members on the 11th April 2011 and further additions on the 5th December 2011

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 To ensure that all residents are fairly treated with regard to the management of the waste and recycling collection service it is necessary to develop a series of policies to give guidance on how non standard issues are to be resolved. Policy numbers 1 – 14 were approved on the 11 April at the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee. Policy numbers 15 – 17 were approved at the meeting of 5th December 2011 of the same committee.

Under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Council may specify the container type and frequency of collections with regard to material covered as the statutory duty under this act.

2.0 Statement of intent

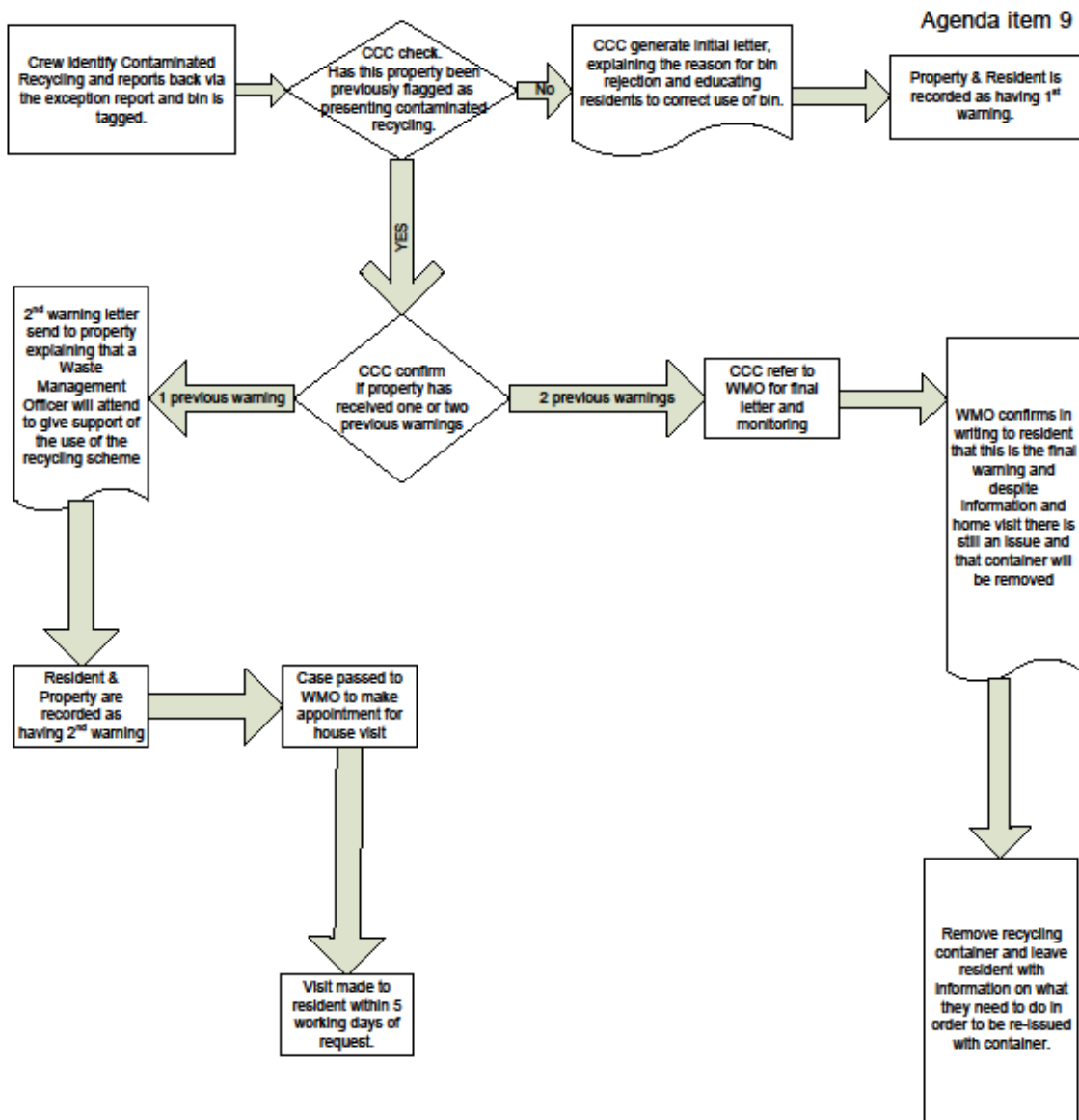
The intention of this policy is to give clear guidance to both officers and Members on the protocol for dealing with persistent contamination of recycling containers to ensure that the material sent for recycling is of an acceptable quality. As the government intend to introduce mandatory composition testing of all materials recycling facilities within the next two years it is imperative that waste collection authorities ensure that the quality of this material is high from source and that the Council mitigates the financial liabilities which occur from dealing with contaminated recyclable material.

3.0 Scope

This policy supports policy 14 and gives detail as to how officers will manage incidents of persistent contamination.

4.0 Policy Statements

4.1 Flowchart detailing the steps taken to manage incidents of persistent contamination of recycling containers.



5.0 Policy outcomes

5.1 Outcomes and links to the corporate outcomes

- A good quality of life where the district will be; cleaner, healthier, safer, sustainable
- A good reputation with customers
- High quality service delivery
- Strong community leadership
- Effective management
- Knowledge of our customers and communities

5.2 Behaviours

The policy contributes to the following corporate outcomes:

- Good reputation with customers and regulators
- Good quality of life in East Northamptonshire – cleaner, safer, prosperous, healthier and sustainable
- Effective partnership working
- Members and staff with the right knowledge, skills and behaviours



EIA Initial Screening Form – policy

1. Name of Policy:	
2. Name and Job title / role of person completing Initial Screening:	Charlotte Tompkins – Waste Manager
3. What is the main purpose of the Policy?	The intention of this policy is to give clear guidance to both officers and Members on the policy for the provision of waste services for other organisations, and non domestic residents of East Northamptonshire while continuing to provide value for money services for residents
4. Who is the Policy aimed at?	All users of the service
5. How is the success of the Policy measured?	The level of contaminated recycling is kept within contractual tolerance.
6. Are equality monitoring systems for the Policy in place?	All residents have equal access to the waste and recycling service.

7. Use the following table to indicate using a ✓:

- a) Where you think that the Policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality of opportunity or improving relations within equality groups.
- b) Where you think that the Policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality groups i.e. it could disadvantage them.
- c) Where you think that the Policy could have a neutral impact on any of the equality group i.e. no impact

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Gender:				
Women/Girls			✓	Requirement for waste collections services is not gender specific As above
Men/Boys			✓	
Transgender people			✓	
Sexual Orientation:				
Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals			✓	
Race/Ethnicity:				
White British people			✓	
White non-British people (including Irish people)			✓	
Asian or Asian British people			✓	
Black or Black British people			✓	
People of mixed heritage			✓	
Chinese people			✓	
Travellers (Gypsy/Roma/Irish heritage)			✓	
People from other ethnic groups				
People who do not have English as their first language			✓	

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason	
Disability:					
Physical impairment, e.g mobility issues which mean using a wheelchair or crutches.			✓	Individual collections are not affected. Any premises where groups may meet are given a reduced charge to avoid disposal costs in line with the regulations.	
Sensory impairment, e.g blind/having a serious visual impairment, deaf/having a serious hearing impairment.			✓		
Mental health condition, e.g depression or schizophrenia			✓		
Learning disability/difficulty, e.g. Down's syndrome or dyslexia, or cognitive impairment such as autistic spectrum disorder			✓		As above
Long-standing illness or health condition, e.g. cancer, HIV. Diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy			✓		As above
Other health problems or impairments (<i>please specify if appropriate</i>)			✓		As above
Age:					
Older People (60+)			✓		
Children and Young People (see guidance for definition)			✓		
Religion/Belief:					
Christian			✓	Provision for waste collection services for places of worship is in line with the main domestic collection service and provided to all.	
Buddhist			✓		
Hindu			✓		
Jewish			✓		
Muslim			✓		
Sikh			✓	As above	
Other religion (including holding no belief)			✓	As above	

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Other Potentially Affected Groups				
Rural Isolation - People who live in rural areas e.g isolated geographically, lack of internet access			✓	Provision is made to carry out collections in all locations within the district
Socio-economic Exclusion – e.g. people who are on benefits, have low educational attainment, single parents, people living in poor quality housing, people who have poor access to services, the unemployed or any combination of these and the other protected strands			✓	As above
Any other potentially affected groups (<i>please specify</i>)				
8. If you have indicated that there is a negative impact on any group: Not applicable				
a) Is that impact against legislation?	Yes	No ✓		
b) What is the level of impact?	High	Low ✓		
9. Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance?	How?			
10. Could you improve a positive impact of the Policy?	How?			
11. If there is no evidence that the Policy promotes equality of opportunity or improved relations, could it be adapted so that it does?	How?			
Head of Service signature				
Date of Initial Screening:	4 th November 2011			