

EXECUTIVE 18th November 2021

Report Title	North Northamptonshire Waste & Recycling Policy & Street Cleansing Policies
Report Authors	George Candler, Executive Director for Place and Economy
Executive Member	Councillor Graham Lawman, Executive Member for Highways, Travel & Assets.

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Household Waste & Recycling Policy

Appendix B – Street Cleansing Policy

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of this report and attached documents are to seek Executive approval of the following documents:

- North Northamptonshire Waste and Recycling Policy
- North Northamptonshire Street Cleansing Policy

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report summarises the main policies for waste, recycling and street cleansing services delivered across North Northamptonshire. The policies, agreed by the Shadow Executive in February 2021, were developed to create a set of harmonised standards for waste, recycling and street cleansing.

Following implementation over the last six months, the policies have been reviewed and minor amendments made. In addition, a proposed process to deal with wheeled bins left on streets is incorporated.

2.2 The attached policy documents cover several service areas and the policies associated with delivering these services. These include:

- Residual waste collection
- Recycling
- Food waste
- Garden waste
- WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) collections
- Bulky waste collections
- Commercial / trade waste
- Clinical waste
- Household Waste Recycling Centres
- Street Cleansing

2.3 The policies concerning garden waste collections and food waste collection require further work to harmonise. Further information on these is detailed later in the report.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Executive:

- a) Approve the Household Waste and Recycling Policy;
- b) Approve the Street Cleansing Policy; and
- c) Expand the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) collections to cover the whole of the Council's area (Corby, Kettering & Wellingborough) on a phased basis, subject to the identification of the necessary budget.

3.2 Reason for Recommendations –

- To ensure North Northamptonshire has an agreed set of waste and recycling policies and street cleansing policies to ensure clarity for residents on the service standards to be delivered:
- To enable enforcement action to be taken where appropriate:
- Allow a review of services where harmonisation is not currently possible and provide future recommendations on the delivery of these services

4. Report Background

4.1 The Council has statutory duties in relation to waste, which include the:

- collection of household waste;
- collection of certain recyclable materials from households;

- provision of places at which residents in its area may deposit their waste, referred to as Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's) in North Northamptonshire;
- requirement to ensure that its land, and land it is responsible for, is kept clear of litter, so far as is practicable.

The Policies have been designed to meet the Council's statutory obligations.

- 4.2 The Waste and Recycling Policy and Street Cleansing Policy ("the Policies") were developed to ensure that, on vesting day, North Northamptonshire had harmonised policies in relation to these services where possible. These Policies were approved in principle by the Shadow Executive in February 2021 and ensured there was a clearly defined set of policies and standards across the service to avoid uncertainty for residents, customers, Members and officers of the Council. They also set out how street cleansing, refuse and recycling services are provided in an effective and efficient manner in order to maximise recycling and reduce the amount of waste disposed of by the Council.
- 4.3 Harmonising policies and standards, where possible, has also allowed the development of consistent communication messages and promotion of services to minimise the confusion for residents which would have been caused by maintaining different services in different areas.
- 4.4 Now that the Policies have been operating for six months, it is appropriate to review their operation and address anomalies and budget implications which have been identified during implementation.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 Where possible the policies were harmonised and implemented on 1st April 2021. However due to some contractual arrangements and different service delivery methods, some services were unable to be harmonised. Those services will require key decisions from Members on their future operation in due course. In particular, Members will be asked to determine the future of food waste collections in the area – this is currently operated in the East Northamptonshire and Corby areas but not in the Kettering and Wellingborough area - and garden waste collections (currently a paid-for service in East Northamptonshire, but not in the other areas).
- 5.2 It is proposed that further reports will be brought to Executive on the garden waste and the food waste services. Proposals for these services will also need to be considered in line with any outcomes from the Government's recent consultation on the future operation of these services by Councils.
- 5.3 The Shadow Executive, in agreeing the Policies, resolved that the collection of WEEE should be rolled out across the North Northamptonshire area on a phased basis. However, preparations for the implementation of the service across the area identified financial implications not anticipated when the policy was adopted. These are detailed in section 6.1.2 but relate to processing and disposal costs for all areas, and additional costs of replacing collection vehicles in the former Wellingborough area.

- 5.4 The Executive is asked to determine whether to approve the extension of the WEEE service to all areas of the Council, and therefore accept the additional costs which result, or to withdraw the WEEE service from the former East Northamptonshire area.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 The introduction of small WEEE collections within Corby and Kettering areas will incur additional processing and disposal costs which have not been provided for in the budget. Based on the service currently operating in East Northamptonshire and dependant on participation, this is additional cost is estimated to be approximately £25-£30k per annum (for Corby & Kettering areas). The cages required for the service are already on the collection vehicles in this area so no adaption to vehicles is required to commence the service.
- 6.1.2 If the service is rolled out in the Wellingborough area at a later date, there will be similar additional disposal costs. Further, there will be additional costs to fit cages on the collection vehicles when they are replaced (the current vehicles are not suitable), as well as promotional costs.
- 6.1.3 The withdrawal of the WEEE collection service for small WEEE in the East Northamptonshire area would harmonise the service across North Northamptonshire. There would be no direct financial cost to the termination of this service as the costs are covered by the waste contractor, however it could result in this material, which is potentially hazardous, being disposed of in the residual waste bin rather than being responsibly processed.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals. The powers relied on are provided by the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Localism Act 2011, The Controlled Waste Regulations 2012 and other relevant legislation.

6.3 Risk

- 6.3.1 If the WEEE service is withdrawn from East Northamptonshire then there could be a reputational impact to the Council. Alternative disposal facilities for this waste are available at the Household Waste Recycling Centres, however this means residents travelling to sites to dispose of such waste. In some cases, these items may be placed within the wheeled bins, either contaminating the recycling or going for disposal for residual waste.

6.4 Consultation

- 6.4.1 The public have not been consulted during the production of these proposals as they make minor amendments (mainly correcting typographic errors) to the

previously agreed proposals and have been designed to ensure we meet our statutory requirements for these services.

6.5 Consideration by Scrutiny

6.5.1 This report has not been considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6.5.2 The report was presented and discussed at the Service Delivery, Performance and Customers Executive Advisory Panel on 1st November 2021. Members were supportive of the proposals and recommended to Executive that WEEE and food waste collections should be implemented across the rest of North Northamptonshire. They also requested that more communications were undertaken in relation to a number of areas, including residents being able to disposal of dog waste in litter bins, and how to deal with hazardous waste such as batteries.

6.6 Climate Impact

6.6.1 The policies have been developed to take into account the waste hierarchy, encouraging waste minimisation and encouraging waste to be recycled rather than disposed of.

6.6.2 The street cleansing policies are designed to remove fly tipping, graffiti and fly posting speedily to discourage further dumping and other postings.

6.7 Community Impact

6.7.1 Waste and recycling services are essential to support a safe and healthy environment in which to live. These policies seek to maintain and promote a healthy, safe, and environmentally sustainable community.

6.7.2 The harmonisation of services is an on-going process and will take time to achieve dependent on existing contractual and operational arrangements and funding. This means that some services, such the kerbside collection of WEEE, are available in some parts of North Northamptonshire and not in others. In time, the aim is to harmonise services across the area.

7. Background Papers

7.1 Shadow Executive report and minutes – February 2021.