

CHILTERN & WYCOMBE JOINT WASTE COLLECTION COMMITTEE (JWCC)

27 August 2015

Review and refresh of the joint waste collection policies and for the Chiltern and Wycombe Joint Waste Service.

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the Joint Waste Collection Committee notes the review of joint waste policies, and approves the updated policy documents as set out in Appendix 1, and its application from 1st September 2015

Background

1. In preparation for the introduction of the Joint Waste Service (JWS) in March 2013, the waste policies of both Chiltern and Wycombe District Councils were harmonised in order to provide a consistent approach to waste collections across both districts. The Joint Waste Harmonisation report was approved by the Joint Waste Collection Committee in December 2012 and by both Cabinets. Delegated powers were given to the Head of Service at Wycombe and the Senior Waste Officer at Chiltern, in consultation with Cabinet Members, for any amendments to policy.
2. Two years on, it is timely to review and refresh those policies in the interests of seeking continuous improvement, to provide greater clarity to stakeholders, including residents, Members, Waste Officers and Customer Services and to manage customer expectations. The updated Waste Policies have been attached as Appendix 1. Following approval by the JWCC, the updated policies will be published on both Council's websites.

Updated Waste Policies

3. The updated policy document, set out in Appendix 1, provides details of all collection services provided by the JWS. It highlights the legal requirements put upon a collection authority in relation to waste and what powers the authority has with regards to collection specifics (Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 46).
4. The majority of waste collection authorities have a waste collection policy to guide their services. A review of many of these has been carried out to establish best practice.
5. The updated policy document uses the Joint Waste Harmonisation report agreed in December 2012, and historic service standards from both districts combined with industry standard best practices.
6. The updated policy document allows Waste Services, Customer Services, Residents and Members to fully understand the levels of service that can be expected and what they need to do to ensure collections take place successfully.
7. It will also allow the JWS to provide a more consistent service across the districts and to help find efficiencies within the current and future contracts. An example of one such efficiency would be to enable better enforcement of the 'no side waste' policy; increasing recycling levels and reducing waste arisings.

8. The updated policy document covers all general waste and recycling collection issues, including different service types (houses, flats, clinical, bulky collections etc), collection points and frequency, container types and delivery times.
9. The updated policy document does not impact on our current contract with Serco, or change any of the contracted provisions
10. Most of the policies have not changed but some of the terminology and description have been updated to provide greater clarity and understanding. These, where appropriate, will also be supported by photographic examples on the websites

Bulky Special Collections

11. The only proposed area of change from the existing waste policy relates to bulky special collections. Currently, residents may present up to five bulky items for a charge of £35. A sliding scale of charges then increases as the number of items increases:

No of bulky items requested	Charge
5	£35
6	£50
7	£65
8	£80

12. The current system of collecting five items for £35 quite often encourages residents to find additional items to put out, in order to make up their five. The proposed recommendation is to change this provision to three items for £35. Further items requested for collection (1, 2 or 3 items) to be charged at £35
13. Potential benefits of this change are:
 - Residents will be encouraged to consider waste minimisation
 - Less bulky waste items impacting on waste figures
 - Better use of vehicle capacity for Serco
 - It is not anticipated that this will have a detrimental effect on income received through this service.

Conclusion

14. The policies will be reviewed every two years to ensure they are kept in line with best practise.