

Report title	Proposal to Revoke the 2020 Household Recycling and Waste Kerbside Collection Policy and introduce the new Recycling and Waste Policy 2024
Report author	Helen Clark
Department	Environmental Services
Exempt?	No
Exemption type	N/A
Reasons for exemption	N/A

Purpose of report:
To resolve

Synopsis of report:
The Direct Services Manager proposes to revoke the 2020 Household Recycling and Waste Kerbside collection policy and introduce a new 2024 Waste and Recycling Policy which expands the remit of the former policy to include Housing in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and blocks of flats.

Recommendation(s):
To revoke the 2020 Household Recycling and Waste Kerbside collection policy and introduce a new Waste and Recycling Policy which expands the remit of the former policy to include Housing in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and blocks of flats.

1. Context and background of report

Roles and responsibilities

- 1.1 Surrey currently operates a 2-tier structure. The districts and boroughs are responsible for waste *collection* and Surrey County Council (SCC) is responsible for its *treatment and disposal*, including the provision of Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) for residents to recycle and dispose of their municipal waste.
- 1.2 The end destinations of the recycling and waste are controlled by SCC and are therefore out of the direct control of the districts and boroughs.

Performance

- 1.3 Since the introduction of recycling in 2008, Runnymede Borough Council's (RBC) recycling performance has increased from 20% (2008/09) to 49% (2021/22), placing RBC 79th out of 333 Authorities.
- 1.4 Further waste minimisation and recycling performance improvements are needed to meet national recycling targets and assist Surrey County Council (SCC) in reducing the disposal cost of household waste.
- 1.5 During 2021/22 RBC had the largest % increase of recycling performance across all English Local Authorities of 5.1%.

2 Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended.

Proposed Changes

- 2.1 The Environmental and Sustainability Committee approved a Household Recycling and Waste Kerbside Collection policy on the 8th July 2020. This policy has served the Council well and offered a framework for provision and collection of refuse and recycling bins for households.
- 2.2 The 2020 policy did not however, specify bin provision for either Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) or for flats and these have been included in the proposed 2024 policy.
- 2.3 Notifications regarding contaminated waste and side waste are frequently received by Environmental Services teams. The notifications are spread across a number of teams, so it is difficult to calculate accurately what percentages relate to single households, flats or Houses in Multiple Occupation. However anecdotally officer believe that the number of notifications relating to flats and HMOs has increased since the 2020 policy was introduced.
- 2.4 The policy has been amended to specify the exact refuse and recycling bin allocation for differing sized HMOs. Clear allocations are now also included for blocks of flats by dwelling number.
- 2.5 From August 2020 the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) (Amendment) (No2) Order 2020 granted new planning rights subject to a fast-track process called prior approval. A number of developments of flats have since been completed which have not required full planning approval. There have been shortfalls relating to bin store provision in some developments which this policy will partially address.
- 2.6 The proposed 2024 policy includes a range of measures to encourage waste reduction, improve recycling at household level and actively encourage behaviour change. This includes limiting the amount of refuse collected per household and offering recycling bins/food caddies FOC to enable and encourage increased levels of recycling.

3. Policy framework implications

- 3.1 The new policy is aligned to the Climate Change Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy within the Corporate Business plan 2022- 2026

4 Resource implications/Value for Money

- 4.1 Ensuring that waste is correctly presented for collection prevents potential collection and tipping cost to the authority necessitated by additional collections which are required when bins are contaminated or inaccessible due to side waste or fly tipping. The cost of purchasing and delivery of bins will be met from existing budgets.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 The Council is required (under Section 45(1) of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA)) to collect controlled waste from households without charge, with relevant exceptions and is able to collect commercial waste with a charge (s45(2) EPA). The Council is also required to provide separate collection for a minimum of 2 recyclable materials (s45A EPA).
- 5.3 The Local Authority is however entitled to choose the type of receptacle and the location these receptacles should be placed for collection (s46 EPA) and this document clarifies what the policy is in relation to waste collection in the Borough, specifically for HMOs.
- 5.4 Enforcement of the policy is discretionary and takes the form of a civil fine, following service of a specified notice. This would however be exceptional and when negotiations and discussions have been unsuccessful. The Act only provides for prosecutions in England in relation to fly-tipping and littering, rather than breach of notice, which are notoriously difficult to evidence and prove when it comes to the misuse of waste receptacles.

6. Equality implications

- 6.1 The Council has a Public Sector Duty under the Equality Act 2010 (as amended) to have due regard to the need to:
- a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation;
 - b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a Protected Characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) Foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share those characteristics; in relation to the 9 'Protected Characteristics' stated within the Act.
- 6.2 The new policy includes provisions for assisted collections for those with the protected characteristics of Disability and Age which will continue to have a positive impact. It is recommended that the Policy is assessed by way of an equalities screening assessment as soon as possible.

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

7.1 The new policy will encourage recycling which aligns with the Runnymede Climate Change Strategy.

8. Risk Implications

8.1 The revised 2024 policy clarifies the bin allocation arrangements for houses in multiple occupation, HMOs and for flats. At present there is some ambiguity around bin allocation for these premises and this can only be resolved through the implementation of a new policy. The ambiguity is also leading to queries from residents and landlords and these queries will continue if the new policy is not implemented.

9. Other implications

9.1 Not applicable

10. Timetable for Implementation

10.1 The policy will be introduced immediately after approval.

11. Conclusions

11.1 The new Recycling and Waste Policy will encourage recycling and correct presentation of waste. New sections with clear specifications of Houses in Multiple Occupation and blocks of Flats will support education and enforcement in these sectors.

12. Background papers

12.1 None

13. Appendices

13.1 Appendix A - Draft Recycling and Waste Policy 2024