

Waste Policy Consultation Review

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This report provides the findings from the Waste Policy Consultation that was open to the public for 4 Weeks from 4th February Until 4th March 2022.
- 1.2 The consultation aimed to gather resident feedback on a proposed Waste Policy to replace any existing Policy.
- 1.3 The Waste Policy should be read in conjunction with the Waste Strategy.

2.0 Waste Policy Consultation Engagement and Communication

- 2.1 The Waste Policy consultation was accessible via the Gedling Borough Council webpage which contained a brief over view and a link to the draft copy of the Policy.
- 2.2 A link to the Waste Policy consultation webpage was sent to neighbouring Local Authorities and Veolia the Waste Collection organisation.
- 2.3 The Waste Policy consultation was also promoted via a Gedling Borough Council press release which was issued to multiple local papers and online news organisations
- 2.4 Links to the Waste Consultation webpage were posted across Gedling Borough Council's social media channels throughout the 4 week duration of the consultation.
- 2.5 Residents were invited to send general feedback on the policy to wastehandover@gedling.gov.uk email address. For those without any digital access, residents were invited to send letter to the Gedling Borough Council Waste Department for inclusion in the results and analysis. All feedback received via these routes were captured for collation and analysis in one place.

3.0 Waste Policy Consultation Results and Analysis

- 3.1 The Consultation consisted of a short paragraph introducing the Policy which highlighted the key proposal that all households with one to five residents would be entitled to a large 240L recycling and residual waste bin, plus additional glass recycling boxes to household that need them.

3.2 Residents were invited to read the draft Waste and Recycling Policy and to provide comments as part of the 4 week consultation. A link was provided to the draft policy as a PDF, or the policy as a HTML accessible page. Plus a link to the waste handover email address.

3.3 There were 33 responses, a response rate of 0.088% of the approximate 37500 households and neighbouring Local Authorities.

3.4 Analysis of the Consultation took place on 14th March 2022 by the Environmental Service Head of Service and the Business Development Manager of Environmental Services.

3.5 Some responses were short and only covered one theme, other responses were long and covered multiple themes. The top five themes were as follows:

- Need to extend what can be recycled – 48%
- Questioning the need for smaller households to have a 240L residual bin – 37%
- Would prefer better education rather than enforcement – 18%
- Requests for garden bins to be collected all year – 15%
- Smaller households expressing a desire to keep their 180L residual bin – 12%

3.6 A full break down of the 33 responses and the themes they raise can be found in Appendix 1

4.0 Additional detail arising from the consultation

4.1 Gedling Borough Council as a waste collection authority (WCA) is currently in a long term contract with Nottinghamshire County Council (NCountyC) who are the waste disposal authority (WDA). Items that can be collected in the recycling bins and taken to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) are stipulated by NCountyC limiting any additional items that can be currently taken.

4.2 The Environmental Act 2021 does aim to deliver consistent and frequent recycling collections across England which should address some of the issues that have been raised in the consultation surrounding the concerns that not enough items can be collected in the recycling bin.

4.3 The Act also allows for local authorities to operate weekly separate food waste collections, preventing food waste from going to landfill or being incinerated.

4.4 A further provision of the Act is a consideration of free garden waste collections which will address the queries regarding this service.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 There have been a number of small suggestions regarding the wording of sections which do not make any direct changes to the policy and can be incorporated to ensure that the policy remains clear for all residents. It is recommended that these are amended.

5.2 Some of the 33 responses have indicated that there is some confusion surrounding the responsibilities of Gedling Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. It is recommended that some of the detail contained in the Strategy is included in the policy, especially the information regarding what items can be recycled and why this is a limited list. Within the introduction of the policy a 'Background' section should be included which refers to the proposals contained in the Environmental Act 2021.

5.3 As a number of the responses did mention that there was still some confusion about what items could be placed in the recycling bin it is recommended that the diagram which is used across the County detailing which items are accepted, and also which cannot be accepted is included within the introduction of the policy.

Appendix 1

1. Small household, does not want a larger residual waste bin.
 - Will contact resident to advise that they are able to retain the smaller bin.
2. Would like more recycling centres.
 - These fall under the responsibility of NCountyCWould like an increase in the amount of items that can be taken in the recycling
 - This will be answered by providing more detail in the 'Background' section with information about the Environmental Act.Glass collections should be more frequent and in wheelie bins
 - This will be answered by providing more detail in the 'Background' section with information about the Environmental Act.Bulky waste should be free all year.
 - This is not economically viable
3. Would like an increase the amount of items that can be recycled to be more ambitious.
 - This will be answered by providing more detail in the 'Background' section with information about the Environmental Act
4. Would like more clarity on what can be recycled.
 - This will be answered by providing the diagram of items that can be taken.
5. A larger bin for all households will increase residual waste.
 - The decision to provide 240L bins for all households was made by Cabinet.
6. Increased bin size will increase carbon footprint.
 - The decision to provide 240L bins for all households was made by Cabinet.There should be better education to reduce contamination levels rather than fines.
 - This will be answered by providing more detail in the 'Background' section with information about the Environmental Act.Garden bins should be free.
 - This is not economically viable
7. Should be a larger amount of items that can go in the recycling bin, and more uniform across the country
 - This will be answered by providing more detail in the 'Background' section with information about the Environmental Act
8. Information about what can be recycled should be clearer and more items taken
 - This will be answered by providing more detail in the 'Background' section with information about the Environmental Act, plus the diagram of items that can be taken.

- Glass collections should be more frequent, or containers bigger.
- This is not economically viable however we will be exploring the possible use of 120L wheelie bins for health and safety reasons which will be added into the policy
9. Concerned that if more items can be recycled there will be more containers
- If more waste streams are added to the service it may be a possibility that the number of waste containers will increase. However we will explore the use of split / dual wheelie bins which will limit this.
10. Smaller households don't need the larger bins as this will increase residual waste.
- The decision to provide 240L bins for all households was made by Cabinet.
11. Garden bins should be collected all year round.
- This is not economically viable.
- Larger bins will create more residual waste.
- The decision to provide 240L bins for all households was made by Cabinet.
- Would like Tetra pack recycling.
- This will be answered by providing more detail in the 'Background' section with information about the Environmental Act
12. Increase range of products that can be recycled
- This will be answered by providing more detail in the 'Background' section with information about the Environmental Act
13. Would like plastic bags recycling
- This will be answered by providing more detail in the 'Background' section with information about the Environmental Act
14. Education section not clearly staged
- The information in the Waste Policy matches the Nottinghamshire Principles for the Reduction of Contamination approved by the Joint Waste Management Committee.
15. Provision of free or subsidised compost bins.
- This is addressed in the Carbon Management Action Strategy.
16. Larger bins will increase residual waste and will not encourage recycling.
- The decision to provide 240L bins for all households was made by Cabinet.
17. Would like an increase in amount of items that can be recycled to reduce residual waste.
- This will be answered by providing more detail in the 'Background' section with information about the Environmental Act
18. Would like garden waste to be collected all year round.
- This is not economically viable.

19. Annoyed not enough action taken against people who contaminate their bins.
 - The policy contains actions to be taken when a bin is contaminated and further action if this continues.
20. Suggests more should be done to tackle 'persistent offenders' of people who contaminate.
 - The policy contains actions that can be taken for regular contamination.
21. Worried they will get a larger bin that they do not want.
 - Will contact resident to advise that they are able to retain the smaller bin.
22. Would like the introduction of food waste.
 - This will be answered by providing more detail in the 'Background' section with information about the Environmental Act
23. Believes waste should be reduced overall, rather than just recycling.
Larger bins will encourage more residual waste
 - The decision to provide 240L bins for all households was made by Cabinet.
24. Very keen to support and work alongside GBC to provide various recycling services, including paint for toddler groups and wood for Men in Sheds.
 - The content of this response contained a lot of detail which fits with the Carbon Management Action Strategy. Their details will be passed to the Climate Change Office to contact them.
25. There should be a wider range of items that can be recycled.
 - This will be answered by providing more detail in the 'Background' section with information about the Environmental ActLarger bins are not necessary for smaller households.
 - The decision to provide 240L bins for all households was made by Cabinet.
26. Slim bin Policy was introduced in 2001 to encourage recycling so larger bins shouldn't be introduced for the smaller households.
 - The decision to provide 240L bins for all households was made by Cabinet.There should be better education for communal bin locations.
 - Additional information will be included in the policy to demonstrate the engagement with property managers and social landlords.Up to 7 days return for an uncollected bin is too long.
 - Wording in policy amended to read 'a minimum of 3-4 working days and a maximum of 7 working days'.
27. Need a Recycling Officer to educate residents on items that can be recycled rather than fining.
 - The Climate Change Office and Community Wardens carry out the work of a Recycling OfficerProviding larger bins for smaller households will not encourage recycling.

- The decision to provide 240L bins for all households was made by Cabinet.

Would like action to be taken to get NCountyC to increase number of items that can be recycled.

- This will be answered by providing more detail in the 'Background' section with information about the Environmental Act.

28. If smaller households are given larger bins they are being encouraged to increase their waste.

- The decision to provide 240L bins for all households was made by Cabinet.

29. Disappointing that more items cannot be recycled.

- This will be answered by providing more detail in the 'Background' section with information about the Environmental Act.

Bigger bins to smaller households will not reduce residual waste.

- The decision to provide 240L bins for all households was made by Cabinet.

30. Doesn't want to wait until her bin is damaged to get the larger bin.

- Resident will be able to order a larger bin if the policy is adopted.
Customer will be contacted to advise.

31. Keen to keep the smaller bin.

- Will contact resident to advise that they are able to retain the smaller bin.

32. Elderly resident who wants to keep her smaller bin.

- Will contact resident to advise that they are able to retain the smaller bin.
Would like garden waste service all year round.
- Not economically viable

33. NCountyC Submission –

Suggests smaller bins for smaller households will increase a reduction in residual waste.

- The decision to provide 240L bins for all households was made by Cabinet.

Suggests some changes to wording.

- Wording does not change the aims of the policy so these will be included.
Would like to see removal of recycling bin as an option in the enforcement section.

- This has now been included in the draft for consideration by Cabinet.