



<b>Report to:</b>	Environment and Neighbourhood Committee	<b>Date:</b>	26 November 2015
<b>Report title:</b>	Review of Waste and Recycling Policies		
<b>Report from:</b>	Mary Morrissey, Strategic Director of Environment Housing and Regeneration		
<b>Ward/Areas affected:</b>	Borough-wide		
<b>Chair of Committee/Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Jill Whitehead		
<b>Author(s)/Contact Number(s):</b>	Josie Falco - Head of Recycling and Waste 0208 770 6885		
<b>Corporate Plan Priorities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Green Council</li> <li>• A Smart Council</li> <li>• A Fair Council</li> </ul>		
<b>Open/Exempt:</b>	Open		
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	12 November 2015

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 Following an efficiency review undertaken by the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) of the service, a review of the existing waste and recycling policies has been carried out. LWARB recommended that the development and application of revised policies would lead to efficiencies in the service, potential savings and contribute to elevating material up the waste hierarchy. This report details the outcome of the review, the benefits of adopting revised policies and seeks approval for the introduction of an amended suite of policies.

## 2. Recommendations

That the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee:

- 2.1 Approve the waste and recycling policies 2016 listed at 4.4 of this report and detailed in Appendix A from April 2016.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The London Borough of Sutton last reviewed its waste and recycling policies in 2008. Since this time changes to collection services have occurred.
- 3.2 LWARB, in partnership with London Boroughs, waste authorities and other stakeholders has an Efficiencies Review Fund (ERF) specifically developed to assist in identifying where efficiencies



can be made in waste and recycling services. In 2014, Sutton was awarded support to review its waste and recycling service.

#### 4. Issues

- 4.1 The scope of work for the review included the scrutiny of Sutton's current waste policies and the efficiency of the collection of material from the kerbside. Comparisons were made to other London Boroughs to determine whether a refresh of policy measures in Sutton would produce efficiencies, decrease residual waste and increase recycling performance.
- 4.2 At present 8% (4,000 properties) of households present more than one brown wheeled bin for collection. Whilst it is recognised that larger families may require increased residual waste capacity (which is offered through a larger bin) properties should not have additional containers. LWARB calculated that these additional bins equate to an additional 100 tonnes of recyclable materials per year being placed into the residual waste stream, but more significantly it results in the waste collection service being less efficient.
- 4.3 A recent composition analysis of residual waste indicates that in the region of 10,000 tonnes of recycled material still remains in our residual waste stream. Contamination of the recycling bins (particularly in communal recycling) remains high with 5% of recycling rejected by our disposal contractor in 2014/15. In addition, a study published by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) identifies a correlation between high residual capacity and lower recycling rates.
- 4.4 Sutton's existing policies require updating to ensure compliance as Health and Safety guidance. As a result a review of the following policies has been carried out (the proposed policies can be found at Appendix A) with a summary table of the changes as Appendix B.

Standard Container Policy - This Policy defines the look, number and standard size of the bin(s) that each household will have for each collection service.

Exemption of Wheeled Bin Policy - This Policy defines the reasons a property would be exempted from the use of wheeled bins.

Exceptions Policy – This Policy defines exceptions to policies, recognising there may be circumstances where special arrangements are required.

Contamination Policy - This Policy defines what material can and cannot be placed in each of the containers provided.

Side Waste Policy - This Policy defines restrictions regarding the collection of side waste and when is it accepted.

Use of Container Policy - This Policy defines how residents should present their containers for collection.

Access Policy - This Policy details access issues.

Flats and Communal Property Policy – This Policy details the collection of waste and recycling from flats and other communal properties.



## 5 Benefits of changes

- 5.1 These Policies have been amended to reflect the recommendations from LWARB. They ensure continued compliance with Health and Safety requirements and provide the opportunity to realise efficiencies within the service.
- 5.2 In addition, these proposed Policies will assist Sutton to increase its recycling rate and reduce carbon generated as a result of our waste collection operations. A summary of the benefits can be found in the policy document.
- 5.3 The services reviewed are part of the South London Waste Partnership (SLWP) joint procurement, due for contract commencement in April 2017. Adoption of these policies from April 2016 will enable efficiencies to be realised prior to contract commencement.

## 6 Implementation of policies

- 6.1 The adoption of these Policies from April 2016 will involve changes to the service that residents receive. To ensure the changes are communicated effectively, it is intended to incorporate these into the forthcoming recycling campaign and work closely with colleagues in the customer contact centre about service changes.

## 7 Options considered

- 7.1 The service considered retaining its existing Policies; however, this would prevent the realisation of the benefits identified in Section 5 of this report.

## 8 Impacts and Implications

### Financial

- 8.1 Financial and environmental benefits will result from the introduction of the recommended Policies. The level of needs to be quantified, however, we would seek to remove one full collection round which could deliver in the region of £150,000 saving. This will not result in any redundancies.

### Legal

- 8.2 The duties and requirements of the local authority as a waste collection and waste disposal authority are contained in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- 8.3 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report

### One Planet Sutton

- 8.4 There are three current One Planet Sutton targets relating to household waste:
  - Reduce waste from households by 5% (equivalent to 4000 tonnes) by 2017.
  - Increasing the borough wide recycling rate to 40% in 2017.



- Achieving the Mayor of London's Emissions Performance standard in 2017 of -0.154 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per tonne of waste managed.

8.5 The updated policies will have a positive impact in assisting the Council in achieving all of these targets through restricting residual waste capacity, which will encourage residents to waste less and recycle more.

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8.6 An integrated impact assessment has been completed, which identifies that all households will be affected by the updated recycling and waste policies. The implementation of the updated policies will mean that all residents have access to the same level of service from the Council. However, by providing mitigation measures such as offering additional green recycling bins to those residents whose residual waste capacity is reduced will mean this impact is minor.

8.7 The policy will have a positive impact on those residents that are elderly, have a disability, live in homes with a lack of space and have large households by ensuring they receive a service that meets their needs.

**9 Appendices and Background Documents**

<b>Appendix Letter</b>	<b>Title</b>
A	Recommended Waste & Recycling Policies
B	Changes to Policies

<b>Background Documents</b>
Waste & Recycling Policies in 2008 WRAP July 2015 Factors influencing Recycling performance LWARB – Efficiency Review for the London Borough of Sutton (Phase 1)

<b>Audit Trail</b>		
Version	Final	Date: 12 November 2015
<b>Consultation with other officers</b>		
<b>Officer</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments checked by</b>
Finance	Yes	Akin Akintola
Legal	Yes	Fiona Thomsen