

## Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

<b>Name or Brief Description of Proposal</b>	Household Waste and Fly-tipping Policy 2023-26
<b>Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)</b>	
<p>Southampton City Council (the Council) is responsible for the collection and disposal of all household waste across the city. The Council is also responsible for collection and disposing of fly-tipped waste on council land across the city. The Household Waste and Fly-tipping Policy sets out the requirements for all residents regarding the presentation of their household waste and recycling for collection, and information about the council’s powers to prevent and respond to fly-tipping offences. It details how the council will contact residents if they breach terms of the policy as well as the enforcement process that will be followed.</p> <p>The policy will be used to understand the service provided by Southampton City Council in relation to household waste. This includes assisted collections, reporting fly-tipping offences, reporting complaints, extra capacity requests, bulky waste collections, garden waste collections as well as clinical waste collections.</p> <p>This policy effects every person that resides in or visits Southampton.</p>	
<b>Summary of Impact and Issues</b>	
<p>The requirements set out in the Household Waste and Fly-tipping Policy provide a framework for the waste service to operate. This is until the changes and regulations enforced by the Environment Act of 2021 are expected to come into effect in 2024.</p> <p>This policy is designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the service whilst increasing the amount of material recycled from household waste collections. The policy aims to also reduce fly-tipping in the city. The Council recognises the need to improve the city’s recycling rate and reduce the number of fly-tipping offences.</p>	

The coronavirus pandemic has placed a strain on the services offered by the Council. With more of the population of Southampton working from home, there has been a trend demonstrating the average household is producing more waste. Consequently, there is now more demand on the waste collection service.

With this increase in volume in household waste production, it is essential that a new waste and fly-tipping policy is effective in ensuring that residents have the appropriate support to allow them to manage their waste and minimise the waste they produce. Failure to promote the offers provided by the service may lead to certain groups within Southampton becoming isolated from the service, impacting their ability to dispose of the waste they produce and separate for recycling. Failing to utilise the provided container capacity can result in overfilled bins, side waste, and fly-tipping. All of which causes a public nuisance and can lead to public health risks.

### **Potential Positive Impacts**

The Household Waste and Fly-tipping Policy is designed to improve and formalise many of the processes that work to provide the waste service offers. These enhancements are designed to improve residents' experiences with the waste service, whilst making the service more efficient as well as effective. Additionally, the policy is intended to help residents understand how to handle their waste, which will help improve recycling rates and reduce the amount of side waste and fly-tipped waste which will improve street cleanliness.

The policy has been written to ensure that residents have a clear understanding of what is required from them in terms of correct waste disposal and what they can expect from the service provided by the Council. The use of hangers on bins to notify residents if they have breached the requirements of the policy is designed to help residents understand their responsibility to minimise waste, recycle correctly and dispose of their waste safely.

The policy introduces the use of a waste diary to the additional capacity request process. To complete a waste diary, each household requesting additional capacity will be required to record every item that they place in their general waste bin over an agreed period. After this, the resident will then send the waste diary back to the council for it to be reviewed. By using a waste diary, the Council can highlight to residents the areas where they can increase their recycling capability and give advice on how to minimise the waste they are producing.

To improve efficiency, the Council will review the processes that are important to the delivery of the waste service. Consequently, additional capacity and assisted collection requests that have been granted by the Council will be subject to regular review, to ensure that council resources are being used to support the people that most need it.

<b>Responsible Service Manager</b>	Dave Tyrie
<b>Date</b>	07/02/2023
<b>Approved by Senior Manager</b>	Ian Collins

<b>Date</b>	31/01/2023
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### Potential Impact

<b>Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Details of Impact</b>	<b>Possible Solutions &amp; Mitigating Actions</b>
<b>Age</b>	Elderly residents may struggle to comply with the policy's requirement for bins to be placed bins at the edge of their property prior to collection and returning bins to their property by the end of the day.	The Council offers an assisted bin collection service to those who need it.
<b>Disability</b>	Residents with a disability may struggle to comply with the policy's requirement for bins to be placed bins at the edge of their property prior to collection and returning bins to their property by the end of the day.	The Council offers an assisted bin collection service to those who need it.
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	No identified impact.	n/a
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	No identified impact.	n/a
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	No identified impact.  Pregnant residents may struggle to comply with the policy's requirement for bins to be placed bins at the edge of their property prior to collection and returning bins to their property by the end of the day.	The Council offers an assisted bin collection service to those who need it.
<b>Race</b>	No identified impact.	n/a
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	No identified impact.	n/a
<b>Sex</b>	No identified impact.	n/a
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	No identified impact.	n/a
<b>Community Safety</b>	The policy sets out how the council will inform residents if they breach terms of the policy, as well as the education and enforcement process that may be followed. This is intended to improve community safety.	n/a

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
<b>Poverty</b>	Residents who are on a low income may be unable to pay the charges for the bulky waste collection service, the garden waste collection service as well as the fee to replace bins or glass boxes if they are damaged by the household.	<p>Residents claiming any of the benefits listed below will receive a 25% discount on the normal charges for bulky waste collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Income Support</li> <li>- Pensions Credit</li> <li>- Job Seekers Allowance - income related</li> <li>- Housing Benefit</li> <li>- Council Tax Reduction</li> <li>- Employment Support Allowance</li> <li>- Universal Credit</li> </ul> <p>Residents receiving any of these benefits will also be eligible for a discounted charge for replacement bins.</p> <p>Garden waste can be disposed of free of charge at an HWRC.</p>
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	No identified impact.	n/a
<b>Other Significant Impacts</b>	<p>Language –</p> <p>There is a risk that some people, for whom English is not a first language, may not be able to understand the requirements of the policy and the service offers.</p> <p>Access to phone/internet:</p> <p>Residents that do not have access to the internet or a phone may face barriers to access the services provided by Southampton City Council. Access to the internet, or a telephone is required to access the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reporting missed, damaged or lost bins</li> </ul>	Residents who have limited online access to the waste service, or require translation services can access the Council's in-person services such as City Gateway.

<b>Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Details of Impact</b>	<b>Possible Solutions &amp; Mitigating Actions</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Changing bin capacity</li><li>- Assisted collections</li><li>- Bin day designations</li><li>- Bulky waste collection</li><li>- Garden waste collection</li><li>- Reporting fly-tipping</li><li>- Cross-checking a waste carrier licence</li><li>- Making complaints</li></ul>	

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