

Place and Resources Overview Committee

19th October 2021

Review of the ‘Recycle for Dorset’ policy

For Review and Consultation

Portfolio Holder: Cllr J Haynes, Customer and Community Services

Local Councillor(s): All Councillors

Executive Director: J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

Report Author: Lisa Mounty / Louise Bryant

Title: Service Development Manager

Tel: 01305 224636 / 01305 224633

Email: lisa.mounty@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk / louise.bryant@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

The Councillors support the changes made to the revised version of the Recycle for Dorset policy (see appendix 2).

The Councillors’ support and/or comments are taken into consideration by the portfolio holder in their decision to approve the revised version of the policy.

Reason for Recommendation:

To enable the waste team to use the policy more effectively in everyday communications with residents, especially in relation to second homeowners and Houses in Multiple occupancy (HMOs). It will also enable operational efficiencies to be made in relation to collection points.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The current and revised versions of the Recycle for Dorset policy are in appendix one and two respectively.

1.2 The main three changes to the document are as follows:

- The wording regarding the collection points has been revised, i.e. where residents are required to place their waste and recycling containers for collection, particularly those that live in properties with private driveways that are a long distance from the public highway.
- Clarification regarding the provision of the Recycle for Dorset service to second home properties.
- The addition of a new section which stipulates the level of service that is provided to Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). This provision of service has not been changed; it has been included as it is currently missing from the policy. The proposed wording matches what is in the current guidance for new developments.

Collection points:

- 1.3 Regarding the first of these three points, the Recycle for Dorset policy states that containers should be placed on the kerbside at the boundary/edge of curtilage of the property adjacent to the publicly maintained road. This is not always the case when it comes to households that have private roads/driveways leading up to the property. The current policy says the following:

'Where a household is on a private street (which includes standard and narrow access) and council collection vehicles have historically accessed this road, the DWP will endeavour to continue to do so.'

This currently means that we have situations whereby the crews are travelling down long driveways to collect from one property because 'they have always done so' which is both operationally and economically inefficient. It causes unnecessary wear and tear to the vehicles and takes a disproportionate amount of time and resources to collect.

- 1.4 The proposal is to change the wording to the following:

'Where a household is on a private street or private road (which includes standard and narrow access), Dorset Council reserves the right to stipulate the collection point depending on what is operationally practicable.'

This will provide the Operations team the discretion and authority to propose a more suitable collection point. It will enable the Operations team to make the rounds as efficient as possible to generate potential savings.

Second homes:

1.5 The second of the two bullet points refers to second homes. Currently, there is an expectation from some second homeowners that they are entitled to a prescribed, separate collection service to cater for their needs, i.e. a collection day and time that fits around their occupancy of the property.

1.6 It is proposed that an additional two lines are inserted at the beginning of the policy which makes it clear that second homeowners receive the same standard of service as all Dorset residents:

'This document details the service policies for Recycle for Dorset, the waste and recycling service provided by Dorset Council. It applies to all households in Dorset, including those that are used as second homes'.

'All households (including second homeowners) are required to present their rubbish and recycling in containers issued by Dorset Council on the collection day specified'.

1.7 By inserting these additional lines, this will support the decisions of the Operational Managers when they are involved in complaints/discussions from second homeowners.

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

1.8 The third bullet point refers to the service that is currently provided to HMOs. An HMO will receive one standard set of recycle for Dorset containers. Larger HMOs may require additional waste capacity. If this is the case the landlord's options are:

- Pay for a larger capacity bin (5 or more residents – see 7.1 Larger families)
- Take the additional waste themselves to a licenced facility. To do this they will need a waste carrier's licence (The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011) and pay to dispose of the waste.
- Request Dorset Council to collect the additional waste, however a collection charge will be payable.
- Pay a company to collect and dispose of the waste (this must be a registered waste carrier). There are many commercial operations that can undertake this service.

1.9 As detailed in paragraph 1.2, there are no proposed changes to this current situation.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 We anticipate that the proposed revisions to the Recycle for Dorset policy, in particular those referring to the collection points, will lead to more efficient collection rounds. If approved, the changes to existing collection points will form part of the round optimisation programme that the waste team are currently working on.

Well-being and Health Implications

- 2,2 No well-being or health implications have been identified.

3. Climate implications

- 3.1 The recommended revisions to the Recycle for Dorset policy will reduce the number of cases whereby large refuse/recycling vehicles are travelling down long private driveways to collect and empty waste containers from a single or a small number of properties.

This will therefore have a positive climate change impact in terms of reduced fuel emissions.

4. Other Implications

- 4.1 There are no other implications.

5. Risk Assessment

- 5.1 Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as low.

Current Risk: Low
Residual Risk: Low

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There is an existing EQIA for the Recycle for Dorset service. For the purpose of this report, an additional draft EQIA has been prepared to cover the first of the proposed changes, i.e. the collection points as this has potential to have the most impact. This is in appendix 3.

7. Appendices

Appendix one – Existing Recycle for Dorset Policy

Appendix two – Revised Recycle for Dorset Policy with proposed changes

Appendix three – EQIA

Appendix four – Recycle for Dorset Policy with track changes

8. Background Papers

No background papers included.

Footnote: Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.