Expected Outcome

1.1 The aim of the policy is to ensure that the waste and recycling services operate efficiently and effectively. The adoption of the policy will result in greater consistency in terms of service delivery with standards of service being clear, transparent and in accordance with the council plan ambitions.

Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

(1) Approves the Waste and Recycling Collection Policy as set out at ‘Appendix 1’ of this report;

(2) Agrees from 1 April 2019 that delivery charges, as detailed in section 3.8 and in the attached policy, be made for the administration delivery of bins, boxes and bags to all new housing developments. The charging rate to be reviewed as part of the Council’s annual fees and charges.

Background and Proposals

3.1 The Waste and Recycling Collection Policy sets out rules and standards to provide clarity for residents about how the new waste and recycling collection system will be operated and what responsibilities they and the Council have. In addition, the policy seeks to minimise the number of complaints and disputes arising from residents. Members will also have clear recourse to Council Policy when answering queries from residents on the Waste and Recycling Collection service.

3.2 The policy covers assisted collections, side waste, presentation of receptacles for emptying and collection, service to rural properties, bin replacement and repair, additional waste and recycling bins, enforcement procedures, services to charities and community organisations and clinical waste.

3.3 Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 S.45 (1) of the Act, the authority has a duty to collect household waste except where it is situated at a place which in the opinion of the authority is so isolated or inaccessible that the cost of collecting it would be unreasonably high and adequate alternative arrangements can be made or have been made for its collection. S.46 (4) (b) gives the authority the power to require waste receptacles to be located so as to facilitate the emptying of them. The
policy is intended to provide clarity for residents. This is especially pertinent to certain property types such as remote areas or areas with long private drives.

3.4 An audit of residual waste undertaken in October 2018 indicated relatively high levels of ‘side waste’ presented with grey bins (10%). This policy seeks to address this by proposing a closed lid policy and educating householders to actively participate fully in waste minimisation and recycling of waste. A sample of side waste was tested and found to be at least 75% recyclable material.

3.5 Garden waste tonnages decline in winter months and, currently, the Council suspends Green Waste collections for up to 6 weeks, diverting resources to collect residual waste. The policy proposes a period of suspension for up to 10 weeks each winter for garden waste collections and a continuation of fortnightly residual waste collections to allow allocation of resources to other key services like recycling collections, training and verge litter picking. This proposed suspension is likely to result in a very small reduction in the recycling credit received for recycled green waste that may otherwise have been collected over this time. It is not possible to quantify precisely what the reduction may be but it considered to be minimal.

3.6 The proposal will however create greater efficiencies that would outweigh any loss that may arise as detailed below:-

- there will be savings and efficiencies as staff will not be required to attend work over weekends to complete health and safety and other training;
- there will also be savings of 18,000 litres of fuel (based upon 10 weeks) from usage alone as the vehicles will not be used for green waste collections;
- the Council is also required to carry out Health Screening for things such as hand arm vibration, skin conditions, eye sight and hearing and currently these tests are undertaken during the staff members’ own time with overtime paid at the appropriate rate (so as to maintain service delivery).

3.7 The revised suspension of Green Waste collections enables the following efficiencies and savings.

- Fuel Savings of circa 18,000 litres (over 10 weeks)
- Carbon reduction from reduced mileage
- Staff overtime savings from attending courses and health screening in none work time
- Vehicle wear and tear (tyre savings)
- Staff redeployed to other work areas such as verge litter picking

3.8 The policy proposes that from 1st April 2019 a delivery/administration charge will be introduced for the delivery of bins, boxes and bags to all new housing developments. This charge will apply for a full suite of bins and boxes at a total cost of £60 per household. If implemented then the charge would be kept under review as part of the annual review of fees and charges. During 2017/18 there were circa 320 new properties built and occupied and this would see a net income of £16,000 per annum.

3.9 In exceptional circumstances the Policy will offer additional residual waste capacity for householders. Arrangements can be made to help those who need a larger or extra bin for their non-recyclable waste. In these cases an assessment may be carried out before any extra capacity is issued. Additional bins will be considered for households with more than six persons permanently living at the property or for households with residents who have a particular medical condition.
3.10 The policy proposes a more structured approach where assisted collections are considered necessary following assessment. An annual audit will take place to ensure that the service remains the most appropriate for the household.

3.11 Members are requested to approve the Policy and agree the delivery charges to new developments as set out in the report.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 The Portfolio Holder has been consulted and the proposed policy has been discussed at both SMT and the Street Scene Waste Project Board.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 The options are set out in the report. The policy provides clarity, transparency and a consistent approach to delivering the priorities within the resources available.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

6.1 The proposal links to the Council Priorities by supporting the following aims and objectives in the Council Plan:

- Contribute to minimising waste arising and increasing recycling rate.
- Ensuring all households receive an equitable service.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1 As detailed above there are a number of financial savings associated with elements of the Waste and Recycling Policy. These include savings of:-

- Up to 18,000 litres of fuel (circa £19,000 ex VAT per annum)
- Staff overtime savings of circa 640 hours (£10,000)
- Income from the administration of bins, boxes and bags to developments of £16,000 (based upon 2017/18 new builds)
- Reduction of income of circa £10,000 from recycling credit linked to green waste suspension.

The total net effect of the proposal therefore sees income and savings of circa £35,000 per annum.

Human Resources

7.2 There are no negative Human Resource issues associated with this report, however a positive impact is seen based upon staff no longer being required to carry out health and safety training at weekends and from health screening taking place during normal working hours.

Legal

7.3 Under the terms of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, SLDC is classed as a Waste Collection Authority and as such, under Section 45(1), has a statutory duty to collect household waste from all domestic properties. Under Section 46(4) of the Act, the council has specific powers to stipulate the size and type of the collection receptacles, where the receptacles must be placed for collecting and emptying and the materials or items which may or may not be placed within the receptacles. The Policy sets out to make it clear to residents how this duty will be fulfilled and what responsibility the householder has in assisting the Council to discharge the duty.
7.4 Section 46 of the EPA also provides the authority with the power to charge for the provision of waste receptacles.

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

7.4 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? Yes (attached at Appendix 3)

7.5 The Waste and Recycling Collection Policy holds a number of positive impacts including

- Air Quality
- Reduced fuel consumption
- Improved Recycling
- Improved income generation
- Improved Work/Life balance

Equality and Diversity

7.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? Yes (attached at Appendix 2)

7.8 Summary of equality and diversity impacts is attached in Appendix 2.

Risk

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<td>Complaints and disputes arise which are time consuming.</td>
<td>The adoption of the Waste Collection Policy will be widely advertised through press releases and social media. Other unrelated operational developments in 2019 will lead to refreshed calendars in late 2019 and these will contained refreshed collection information.</td>
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Contact Officers

Paul Florentine, Principal Street Scene Supervisor – p.florentine@southlakeland.gov.uk

Appendices Attached to this Report

(delete if no appendices attached)

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<td>Waste and Recycling Collection Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Equality Impact Assessment</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment</td>
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Background Documents Available

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