Report To:	Cabinet
Date:	17 February 2026
Subject:	Waste Policies
Purpose:	To approve waste policies required to implement the new waste collection delivery model.
Key Decision:	Yes
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Jim Astill – Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Environmental Services
Report Of:	Jason King, Director of Communities
Report Author:	Victoria Burgess – Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods
Ward(s) Affected:	All
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

The new waste collection service approved in 2025 requires the adoption of new waste policies and changes to existing policies to enable a clear framework within which the waste service can operate, and to provide clear information to residents.

The Policy Development Panel has scrutinised the new policies and has made recommendations for Cabinet to consider.

Members of the Cabinet are asked to adopt the new waste policies required to implement the changes in waste collection at South Holland District Council.

Recommendations

That the Cabinet:

1. Reviews the waste policy revisions suggested from the Policy Development Panel meeting of 17 December 2025 and 9 February 2026, as set out in Appendix A

2. Approves the waste policies as presented in Appendix B.
3. Delegates authority to the Assistant Director - Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Environmental Services, to approve minor and operational changes to waste policies should there be future need.
4. Notes the Equality Impact Assessment of the policies presented in Appendix C.

Reasons for Recommendations

To enable the Council to provide a clear set of policies for the new waste collection service delivery model to ensure legal compliance, to provide an efficient and effective service, and to provide clear information to residents.

Other Options Considered

Not applicable.

1. Background

1.1 A new waste service delivery model for South Holland was approved in 2025 to meet the legislative changes brought about by the Environment Act 2021, and specifically Simpler Recycling, which requires a common set of recyclable materials to be collected, along with a weekly separate food waste collection.

1.2 It was noted that the new model will provide additional capacity for future housing development, have a positive impact on the amount and quality of recycling, have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the workforce, provide a more reliable collections regime and deliver a positive impact on the environment.

1.3 It was also noted that a project board would have oversight of the delivery of the new service (a Waste Steering Board is in place), and that policies would be considered by the Policy Development Panel before formal approval by Cabinet.

2. Report

2.1 The current waste collection service precludes the council from having control over the amount of waste presented each week, and it is very difficult to identify contamination within the recycling bags. There is no incentive for residents to encourage the move to reducing the amount of waste generated, or to recycle as much as possible. There are therefore few policies currently required in relation to waste presentation and the segregation of recycling.

2.2 As the published waste policies reflect the current collection model the Council needs to make changes to these policies to enable the introduction of the new service for household waste collection.

2.3 The PDP has reviewed the policies at their meetings of 17 December 2025 and 9 February 2026, and their proposals are presented in Appendix A.

2.4 This report presents these new waste policies for consideration by Cabinet, and includes recommendations from PDP scrutiny on the 17 December 2025, and 9 February 2025 which are highlighted in red text in Appendix B.

2.5 The new waste policies proposed in Appendix B provide information to residents, and businesses, on how the new waste collection system will be provided, and enable Cabinet to consider the new rules required to ensure the delivery of an effective, efficient and safe waste service.

2.6 The agreed policies will be published on the Council's website and form the basis of engagement with residents.

2.7 It should be noted that these policies relate to the service once fully introduced. During the initial delivery stages of the new service, extensive engagement will take place with residents, and it is accepted that some of the new policies will need to be introduced with additional guidance and support through the mobilisation phase.

2.8 Appendix C presents the Equality Impact Assessment of these policies, and ensures that the policies are fair, inclusive and do not discriminate against any protected group.

3. Conclusion

3.1. A new set of policies and procedures are required to enable the Council to implement the new waste collection model and help provide clear guidance to its residents ensuring, so far as possible, a smooth transition to the new service.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

Introducing the new waste collection policies will enable the Council to change its waste service and align more closely with the partnership Councils and other authorities within the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership.

Corporate Priorities

Implement the Environment Act 2021 and Extended Producer Responsibility as they come forward.
A new wheeled bin service, controlling the amount of waste presented, improving the quality of recycling presented, and introducing a separate food waste collection, to ensure a more efficient and effective waste management service aligns with this priority.

Staffing

A dedicated engagement team will be in place to help residents understand changes to their current service. Current teams will undergo training on the new policies once approved.

Workforce Capacity Implications

None.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

The Council operates under a complex legislative framework for the management of waste services which includes the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, the Environment Act 2021, the Separation of Waste (England) Regulations 2024, and the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2024:

Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides a duty for the Council to make arrangements for the collection of household waste.

Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides a duty for the Council to collect commercial waste from business premises, or to arrange for the collection of that waste.

The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, requires the Council to apply the Waste Hierarchy to waste management.

The Producer Responsibility Obligations (packaging waste) Regulations 2024 sets out the statutory requirements for the Council to be able to demonstrate an 'efficient and effective' waste service for the management of packaging wastes.

Under the Environment Act 2021 and exercised through the Separation of Waste (England) Regulations 2024, the default waste collection requirements for most households are separate containers for the collection of residual (non-recyclable) waste, food waste (to be collected weekly), paper and card, and other dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal, glass).

Data Protection

None.

Financial

Failure to provide an efficient and effective service negatively impacts on the Council's budget. A clear set of policies and procedures that are well communicated is necessary to support these services.

Risk Management

None.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

None.

Reputation

Failure to provide an efficient and effective service risks the Council's reputation, a clear set of policies and procedures that are communicated to all residents is necessary to support these services.

Contracts

n/a.

Crime and Disorder

Setting out clear responsibilities for businesses regarding their Duty of Care under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 reduces waste related crime.

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

Waste policies have been assessed to ensure that the needs of all members of the community are met. An Equality Impact Assessment accompanies this report.

Health and Wellbeing

None.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

None.

Acronyms

N/A.

Appendices

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report:
Appendix A - Table presenting PDP comments
Appendix B – Waste and Recycling Collection Policies
Appendix C – Equality Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

Document title	**Where the document can be viewed**
Waste Services Delivery Model. Cabinet, 26 June 2025	Cabinet report - waste delivery model FINAL.pdf

Waste Policies. Policy Development Panel, 17 December 2025	Agenda for Policy Development Panel on Wednesday, 17th December, 2025, 6.00 pm - South Holland District Council
Waste Policies. Policy Development Panel, 9 February 2026	Agenda for Policy Development Panel on Monday, 9th February, 2026, 6.00 pm - South Holland District Council

Report Approval

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