

7. Exception Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with Essex Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy through ensuring that smaller containers are made available to residents who request them and that larger or additional containers are only provided subject to strict qualification criteria and to comply with the requirements of sections 46(3)(a) and 46(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The previous policies set out the core arrangements for the waste service and the exemptions to those policies. However, it is recognised that there may be circumstances where special arrangements or changes to the core collection arrangements are required.

General:

Assisted collections will be made available to residents who, upon assessment, are deemed to be unable to use the core waste collection services without assistance from the Council or its contractor. Each case will be treated on its merits. Examples of issues requiring assisted collections include:

- Disability.
- Age.
- Illness or infirmity (may require temporary arrangements).

All requests for a smaller wheelie bin will be granted.

Residual waste collection – larger bins for individual properties:

The standard size of residual wheelie bin is 180 litres. A larger, maximum 240 litres, wheelie bin for residual waste can be issued following a positive assessment under these policies. Elsewhere in the policy clarification is provided in respect of criteria for the issue of additional food and garden wheelie bins and if clinical waste collection is required, which cannot be collected under normal residual waste collection, then this can be done at a cost to the resident.

- (1) Any applications received for a larger wheelie bin will be assessed against the following criteria:
 - The size of the household.
 - The ages of any children in the household and whether any are in nappies (any allowance will automatically end when the child is three years old), if a child is still wearing nappies then this can be assessed and if successful a larger bin provided.
 - That **full** recycling of all materials collected by the Council's recycling services is being made and is continued to be made during the issue of the larger bin.
- (2) The Council reserves the right to review any grant at any time of a larger wheelie bin and to replace it with the next lowest size or the standard 180 litre wheelie bin should it be considered that household circumstances have changed.

Exception Policy (Continued):

Food and garden waste recycling service – additional bins:

- (3) The collection of garden waste is a chargeable service. There is no legal right to a free garden collection service. The Council will collect, **free of charge**, any garden waste contained within the standard 180 litre wheelie bin provided for the food and garden recycling service.

Any additional bins that are issued and collected free of charge is solely at the Councils discretion and may be withdrawn at any time.

- (4) Following a positive assessment by officers a second 180 litre food and garden waste wheelie bin will be provided upon request. The assessment will take into account factors including the following (this list is not exhaustive).
- Whether the resident is making full use of all available options to compost or otherwise manage the amount of garden waste being produced. This will be by the use of compost heap/s and compost bins.
 - Whether the amount of food waste being recycled is such as to compromise the capacity available for garden waste.
 - Whether, in all cases other than where an assisted collection is being provided in accordance with this policy, the garden waste is being produced by the activities of the resident and that no garden waste is being produced wholly through the resident employing a commercial gardening contractor
- (5) The collection of the second food & garden wheelie bin will **initially** be **free of charge** but the Council reserves the right to review this position at any time and further reserves the right to introduce a charge for this additional collection service.
- (6) If a resident chooses to opt out of the garden waste collection service, they will be able to do so but a second wheelie bin **will not** be provided.
- (7) Where a resident has opted out of the garden waste element of the service, they **will be required** to participate in the food waste recycling service and will be provided with a kitchen and kerbside caddy.

Medical Assistance bins for residual waste:

- (8) Additional capacity for residual waste collection is available for medical reasons and will be assessed against the following criteria.
- (i) Applicants must provide medical evidence to be included in their application.
 - (ii) That the size of the bin or additional capacity will be related to the actual amount of waste generated by that particular illness.
 - (iii) That if there are other residents within the household or home help that full recycling of all materials collected by the council's recycling services is being made and is continued to be made during the issue of the larger bin.
 - (iv) That all applications of three years or older are reviewed by sending of an update questionnaire form and applicants that fail to meet the criteria for that size bin have their bin changed to the next lower size (providing the criteria are met) or a standard 180 litre bin. Clinical waste which cannot be collected within the normal residual waste stream can be collected, subject to a charge.