

**Equality Impact Assessment**

**Full**

Operations

Directorate

Service

Waste Services

Title of policy, strategy, project or service

Household Waste collection – draft Household Waste and Recycling Collections Policy

Is the policy, strategy, project or service;

Existing New/proposed Changed/Reviewed

X

Q 1. Aim of the policy, strategy, project or service

The Environment Act 2021 seeks to reform the recycling regime across England to make it simpler and consistent across the country and, includes items not currently collected from households in the Braintree administrative area.

The draft Household Waste and Recycling Collections Policy sets out the council’s strategic direction in managing its waste and recycling services and its approach to managing waste and recycling collections in a more sustainable way. The aim of the draft policy is to provide guidance and clarity to all groups around current provision, planned changes and additional services available to certain groups with access issues, large families and/or physical disabilities. The council will endeavour to reduce any negative impacts on service users as a result of the proposals for service change.

**Strategic Objective**

* To achieve a minimum 65% recycling target by 2035.
* Drive improvements to food waste and recycling participation and collection rates.

**Proposed key changes**

* Reduced non-recyclable waste stream from weekly to three weekly
* Alternate fortnightly recycling in larger wheeled bins to promote recycling
* Retention of weekly food waste collection

Standard waste receptacle collections in wheeled bins where appropriate as follows:

* Food waste & new food waste collection service to flats (weekly)
* Cardboard & paper (240L one fortnight)
* Other dry mixed recyclables (240L the next fortnight)
* Non-recyclable waste (3-weekly – 180L)
* Garden Waste – no change (fortnightly)

The findings of this assessment are addressed in the accompanying draft Household Waste and Recycling Collections Policy

Q 2. Give details of existing information, data and consultations you have used to consider the

impact this policy, strategy, project or service is likely to have on the protected characteristic

All residential households in the Braintree District Council administrative area will be affected by the proposed changes to waste collection methodology.

Any perceived adverse impact on residents relating to the proposed change to waste collections are mitigated in the waste collection policy arrangements and guidance which forms part of the draft Household Waste and Recycling Collections Policy.

This EqIA has been made with consideration to the initial findings of a public consultation, in-depth research at local and national level and, in line with current equality, disability and data protection legislation.

Q3. If there are gaps in this information, data and consultations how will you address this?

E.g. if you are planning to carry out a consultation, tell us who you will consult with and when.

Ensure improved communication and clarity around all services available to all residents.

Q 4. Thinking about each of the protected characteristics what impact does or could the

policy, strategy, project or service have on each. How will you address this?

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Group** | **Impact (positive or negative)** | **Proposed action (including by whom, by when)** |
| Age | Population of 105,400 [Build a custom area profile - Census 2021, ONS](https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/build/#E14001121)    The graph shows the age of respondents to the Waste Review Consultation  **Negative**  Some residents who managed with sacks for recycling may struggle with alternative receptacles (e.g. boxes) if non-standard and unable to carry bulky, heavy items.  **Positive**  Residents of an older age may find a move to three-weekly grey residual bin collection frequency easier as they are more likely to produce less waste.  Some residents may find moving additional receptacles to the kerbside difficult, may find new containers (e.g. on wheels) easier to manoeuvre. | Continue to provide an assisted collection service to those residents currently benefiting from the same.  6% of respondents identified as using the existing assisted collection service.  Ensure all residents are aware of the availability of the assisted collection service.  Continue to provide bulky waste collection service. |
| Disability | [Build a custom area profile - ONS](https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/build/#E14001121) - District Profile:  Disabled under the Equality Act 16.5%  Not disabled under the Equality Act 83.5%    **Negative**  Residents with mobility issues and disabilities may have difficulty manoeuvring wheeled bins, including those containing three weeks waste. 16.5% of the district population (census 2021) identify as disabled under the Equality Act.  Mobility issues / difficulty handling containers could lead to containers being permanently left on the curtilage or pavement.  Moving from fortnightly to three-weekly residual waste collection may cause waste storage capacity issues for those who may create additional waste due to disability/health issues.  Residents who use absorbent hygiene products may struggle with bin capacity if emptied less frequently.  Ability to understand the new system and collection rota by residents with learning difficulties and mental health issues including dementia.  Blind or partially sighted may find it difficult to distinguish between the two bins.  Home carers assisting residents with presenting their household waste for collection may be negatively disadvantaged with more collection containers and possibly more collection days.  **Positive**  Additional capacity for separately collecting paper and card could benefit anyone who has large quantities of medical waste delivered in recyclable packaging.  Some residents who may have difficulty handling recycling sacks to the kerbside difficult, may find new receptacles easier to manoeuvre. | Continue to provide an assisted collection service to those residents currently benefiting from the same.  Ensure all residents are aware of the assisted collection service. Ensure the service is accessible to those residents with relevant medical conditions, to support residents on how and when to present household waste receptacles.  13% of respondents identified the need for a AHP collection service. Develop clear waste collection policy and assisted collection application procedure that will set out the criteria for application and decision making when deciding if an applicant is suitable to receive an assisted collection service  5% of respondents identified the need for additional waste capacity due to medial needs and 5% due to caring responsibilities. The council recognises that some households may require additional waste or recycling capacity. Waste audits will be carried out by the waste minimisation team on all additional bin requests and if the residents are recycling properly and still exceeding their residual waste capacity then an additional bin may be granted. Action - Develop clear waste collection policy and additional capacity application procedure that will set out the criteria for application and decision making when deciding if an applicant is suitable to receive receptables for additional capacity  Develop clear waste collection policy and absorbent hygiene collection service. Accompanied by a procedure document that will set out the criteria for application and decision making when deciding if an applicant is suitable to receive the AHP collection service.  Design a waste collection service to minimise the number of collection days that each household has to remember, e.g. by collecting different waste streams on the same day of the week.  Provide waste collection calendars online for download or provide paper copy on request for non-digital service users.  Continue to provide a text reminder service for all residents.  Ensure all residents are aware of the reminder service and how to access it.  Provide advice and assistance to residents how and where best to place containers on collection day and return after collection.  Training of collection staff relating to how bins are placed after collection.  Assisted collection or reminder services to help alleviate any additional burden on carers |
| Gender reassignment | Gender reassignment does not/ is not impacted upon by the changes to the proposed waste collection methodology. |  |
| Marriage & civil partnership (only in respect of eliminating unlawful discrimination). | Marriage & civil partnership does not/ is not impacted upon by the changes to the proposed waste collection methodology. |  |
| Pregnancy & maternity | **Negative**  Pregnant women may struggle to manoeuvre heavy wheeled bins, including those containing three weeks of residual household waste.  Families with young children may have reduced bin capacity for residual waste due the additional waste associated with nappy disposal and the reduction of residual waste collection frequency.  Households with larger numbers of occupants may struggle with bin capacity as they produce more non-recyclable household waste. Less frequent residual collections may result in grey bins reaching capacity more quickly.  **Positive**  Additional capacity for separately collecting paper and card could benefit anyone who has large quantities of recyclable packaging. | Consider short term provision of the assisted collection service.  Develop clear waste collection policy and absorbent hygiene collection service. Accompanied by a procedure document that will set out the criteria for application and decision making when deciding if an applicant is suitable to receive the AHP collection service. |
| Ethnicity | [Build a custom area profile - ONS](https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/build/#E14001121)  **District Profile**    Ethnic minority groups have a higher likelihood of living in a large household, the change of frequency of collections to fortnightly may result in more waste produced.  Level of English literacy for those with English as a second language may make introduction of the new waste collection service, policy and procedures more difficult to understand. | The council recognises that some households may require additional waste or recycling capacity. Waste audits will be carried out by the waste minimisation team on all additional bin requests and if the residents are recycling properly and still exceeding their residual waste capacity then an additional bin may be granted.  Ensure calendars/guides for use of the waste collection service includes pictorial images as much as possible. |
| Religion or belief | .  Religion or belief does not/ is not impacted upon by the changes to the proposed waste collection methodology |  |
| Sex | Sex does not/ is not impacted upon by the changes to the proposed waste collection methodology |  |
| Sexual orientation | Sexual orientation does not/ is not impacted upon by the changes to the proposed waste collection methodology |  |

Jo Stock

Completed by (Print name):

Signature :

J Stock

Approved by Head of Service (print name):

Charlotte Paine

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AI-generated content may be incorrect. Signature :

Date:

30/04/2025