

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Development and Conservation Control Committee 7th January 2004

AUTHOR/S: Development Services Director

REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE – REFUSE DESIGN GUIDE

Purpose

1. To submit the draft “Refuse Design Guide” to members of this Committee for comments prior to approval and adoption. The Refuse Design Guide has also been submitted to the Waste Management Advisory Group on 12th December for comments by the Chief Environmental Health Officer (see below).

Background

2. The new Wheeled Bin Refuse and Recycling Service commenced on Monday 8th September 2003. The last village will have its first wheeled bin collection on Friday 5th December 2003.

Considerations

3. It was considered that, as the new alternate weekly scheme was much more complex than the old weekly sack based collection system and to ensure that the layout of residential developments minimised the visual impact of wheeled bins, guidance regarding refuse collection and storage needed to be given to planners and developers of new housing developments.
4. Many new developments will be at much higher densities than those already completed. This brings its own pressures on space within such developments. It is important, therefore, to safeguard the necessary space for refuse storage and collection.
5. The Draft Design Guide is Appendix A of this report.
6. The Draft Guide seeks to set out requirements in respect of:
 - a) The Council’s Refuse Collection Method
 - b) The Means of Storage of refuse awaiting collection
 - c) The Siting and Design of refuse storage areas
 - d) Access for refuse collection vehicles
7. The draft guide has been prepared by the Chief Environmental Health Officer in close consultation with the Building Control Manager and Development Control Quality Manager.
8. It is intended that site developers will be given this guide at the earliest stage in any development so that they can take the necessary actions to ensure that the guidance it gives can be incorporated at an early stage.

Consultation

9. All the major housing developers and housing associations with interests in the Cambridge area were sent a copy of the draft guide and asked for their views. Only one response was received which did not materially alter the draft. Its contents have also been discussed with the portfolio holders for Environmental Health and Planning and Economic Development.
10. The Waste Management Advisory Group has commended the draft guide with one adjustment to be made to bring to the attention of developers that collection points should be provided to minimise the need for bins to be put on footways.

Financial, Staffing and Legal Implications

11. The adoption of this guide and its issue to developers should safeguard the Council's chosen method of refuse collection and ensure that the service operates at an optimum cost.
12. There are no financial implications for the Developments Services Department.
13. Staff will need to be aware of the requirements of the guide and involve officers of the Commercial Services Department in the consultation process on relevant applications.
14. The legal implications and statutory requirements of the Building Regulations and Environmental Protection Act 1990 are incorporated in the draft guide.

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that the Committee recommends to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development:
 - a) That the Refuse Design Guide is adopted by the Council; and
 - b) That it is made available to any potential developer at the earliest possible stage in any development.

Background Papers: None

Contact Officer: David Rush, Development Control Quality Manager