

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	10th December 2014
Subject:	City Centre Trade Waste Collection Policy		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Environment		
Wards Affected:	Westgate		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	Appendix 1 - City Centre Trade Waste Collection Policy		

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Cabinet following the close of the consultation phase of the Draft Policy.
- 1.2 To approve the City Centre Trade Waste Collection Policy.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:
 - 1) The contents of this report be noted; and
 - 2) The City Centre Trade Waste Collection Policy at Appendix 1 be approved for implementation as of 1st January 2015.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 On 17th September 2014, Cabinet approved a draft City Centre Trade Waste Collection Policy for consultation. The consultation period of 8 weeks commenced on 18th September 2014 and closed on 13th November 2014.
- 3.2 The consultation was advertised via the Council's website and in addition, officers wrote directly to 450 City Centre businesses in mid October making them aware of the draft policy and providing details of how they could submit comments. The proposed policy was also covered both locally and regionally by the media, which was helpful in raising awareness of its publication.
- 3.3 For a 1 week period between Wednesday 24th September 2014 and Wednesday 29th September 2014 Officers also carried out pro-active visits to the City Centre area referred to in the policy in order to assess the impact of trade waste. Furthermore, where trade waste was identified as being on the street outside of the proposed policy window for collection (6am – 10am) businesses were visited and made aware of the draft policy, the consultation process and provided with advice on how to comply.

- 3.4 19 comments have been received in respect of the policy and consultees have, in addition to City Centre traders, also included Business Representatives, Community Partnership Leaders and our own Officers. The one common theme that has emerged amongst the comments is support for the principal aim of the policy which is to improve the City Centre street scene environment.
- 3.5 There have been a small number of comments received from Small to Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) claiming that the policy is too restrictive and will unduly affect day to day operations. These are the businesses who generally operate in or around office hours (i.e. 9am – 5pm) and claim to have arrangements in place for their trade waste to be collected during the evening period. They argue that complying with the policy might mean them having to store waste overnight which they see presenting risks depending on waste type and might also mean extra costs if requiring a staff member to come in to work early to place waste out for collection.
- 3.6 Although recognising the concerns raised, the aim of the policy is to keep our City Centre free of trade waste during those hours when residents and visitors are at their highest numbers and the City is on display. Trade waste collections during the evening, although not unusual are small in number and businesses are able to request their contractor to collect their waste between the hours of 6am and 10am.
- 3.7 Furthermore, it will not be possible to increase the window for being able to place trade waste out on to the street past 10:00am in view of the impending Gloucestershire County Council restriction on vehicular access into the Gate Streets from 10am – 4pm daily.
- 3.8 There have been some concerns raised by businesses which utilise the ‘orange bag collection service’ provided for us by AMEY. Discussions have been held with AMEY who support the policy and who will make arrangements in advance of 1st January 2015 for orange bags to be collected throughout the City Centre between the hours of 6am and 10am. Orange bags found presented or not having been taken in outside of this window will be removed and the waste producer’s details passed to Public Protection for investigation.
- 3.9 Based on the low consultation response rate, the ability of registered waste contractors to amend collection times to comply with the policy and the impending implementation of vehicular restrictions into the City Centre Gate Streets, it is proposed that no changes are made to the policy prior to approval.

4.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 The consultation process has resulted in a number of comments being raised, some of which propose changes to the policy, particularly around the time restriction for being able to place trade waste out for collection.
- 4.2 These proposals would not resolve the issues that the policy has been developed to tackle which is trade waste being present in and around our prime shopping and visitor areas during times of high footfall.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 Implementation of this policy will provide City Centre businesses with a clear and consistent message to assist them in complying with the law in respect of trade waste.
- 5.2 The policy will support Officers in undertaking investigations of trade waste issues as it provides them with a clear statement of what is expected of businesses in respect of the presentation and collection of trade waste.
- 5.3 The policy supports the Council's objectives contained within its Council Plan 2014 – 2017 including supporting the night-time economy, encouraging inward investment and promoting growth.

6.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 6.1 Subject to approval of the Policy, communication with all City Centre businesses will be undertaken in writing, including the provision of a copy of the Policy and informing them of the intended implementation date of 1st January 2015.
- 6.2 It is intended to implement this Policy in partnership with the City Centre business community with the aim of supporting businesses to comply with the policy and meet their legal obligations in respect of trade waste.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There will be minimal resource implications in implementing the policy and investigation of complaints will be prioritised against other reactive work.
- 7.2 In the medium to long term it is envisaged that the amount of resource taken up by investigation of trade waste issues should decrease as businesses will be clear on what the Council expects of them in respect of trade waste.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 This Policy is supported by an existing legal framework that provides Councils with enforcement powers for dealing with trade waste issues. Use of these enforcement powers will be considered having regard to the Environmental Health & Regulatory Services Enforcement Policy.

(Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 9.1 The following risk and opportunities have been identified:

Risks	Opportunities
Some businesses view the policy as too restrictive and difficult to comply with and may view the Council as not being supportive	To improve the street scene within the City Centre

Not amending the policy to take into account business concerns about it being too restrictive may affect our relationships and standing with City Centre traders.	To support businesses to comply with the law in respect of trade waste
Amending the policy taking into account some of the accounts received will still result in trade waste being present in our City Centre during times of high footfall	To promote the role of the Council in aiming to enhance the City Centre experience, support the night-time economy, encourage inward investment and promote growth
	To promote AMEY trade waste collection service

10.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

10.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

11.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

11.1 Improving the street scene within a community has been proven to have positive impacts on anti-social behaviour, community cohesion and general health & well being of that community. This is based on the fact that improving the look and feel of the area changes its nature for the better and encourages people to utilise it more for enjoyment. Reducing the length of time that waste is present within our City Centre also removes the potential for it or its contents to be utilised as weapons or objects associated with anti-social behaviour.

Sustainability

11.2 A clear and consistent message for businesses on how and when they should present their business waste will naturally create sustainability. The window of 06:00hrs – 10:00hrs provides sufficient flexibility to enable businesses to comply with the requirements which should reduce the scope for the policy needing to be changed in the future. Having the policy in place will also support Council Officers in confidently being able to investigate and follow up incidents of non-compliance particularly in the face of challenge if received.

Staffing & Trade Union

11.3 No staffing or Trade Union implications have been identified

Background Documents: N/A