

Chapter 17: Waste and Recycling

Introduction

- 17.1 Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are designated Waste Collection Authorities and are responsible for collecting household waste. It is also responsible for the management of bring sites. Waste collection services are provided by the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service (GCSWS) serving over 127,000 homes in both South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City, covering approximately 500 square miles each week. All recycling and waste operations are based at the Waterbeach Depot 7 miles north of Cambridge and operate 4 days a week domestically and 7 days a week serving thousands of local businesses and schools, colleges and other non-domestic premises.
- 17.2 Planning obligations will be required to address the impact of development on waste provision and services.

Policy Context

Cambridge

- 17.3 Cambridge Local Plan 2018 Policy 28: Carbon reduction, community energy networks, sustainable design and construction, and water use includes the requirement to address waste management. Waste Management is also listed as a potential requirement in Policy 85: Infrastructure delivery, planning obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

South Cambridgeshire

- 17.4 South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 Policy HQ1: Design Principles requires facilities for waste management and recycling. Waste Management is also listed as a potential requirement in Policy TI/8: Infrastructure and New Developments.

Greater Cambridge (Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire)

- 17.5 Cambridgeshire County Council is the Waste Disposal Authority and is responsible for waste planning and disposal and in partnership with Peterborough City Council, has prepared and adopted the [Cambridgeshire](#)

[and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan](#). Policy 14 Waste Management Needs Arising from Residential and Commercial Development requires relevant residential and commercial planning applications to be accompanied by a completed Waste Management Guide Toolkit, which forms part of the latest RECAP Waste Management Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (or similar superseding document). Where appropriate, and as determined through an assessment of the Toolkit submission, such new development may be required to contribute to the provision of bring sites and/or the Household Recycling Centre service.

- 17.6 The [RECAP Waste Management Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document](#) has been prepared and adopted jointly by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council in partnership with the district councils in the County. In Addition, the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service has produced a [Waste and Recycling guide for developers](#).

Development types from which Obligations will be sought

- 17.7 All development

Form in which contributions should be made

- 17.8 The following requirements will be applied to new developments.

Household Waste Bins

- 17.9 A set of bins to include 23 litre external and 5 litre internal food waste caddy will be issued to new houses as standard. The size and quantity of bins issued to flats will be as per the agreement at the planning consultation stage.

- 17.10 Approach to Contributions:

- The cost to issue bins to new properties is a one-off £90 charge which covers bin sets.
- Where communal waste bins are provided a charge of £380 is applied per each new bin to include food waste receptacle.
- These fees are to be reviewed annually and are subject to change.

Underground Bins

- 17.11 GCSWS actively welcomes proposals from developers for alternative waste management solutions. GCWS request that developers of high-density

housing consider installing underground bin systems as their first option before looking towards conventional wheelie bin systems.

- 17.12 Developer to pay for and install infrastructure as required, in close collaboration with GCSWS and with reference to the Waste Storage and Collection Guidance for Developers. Developers should contact GCSWS as early in the planning stages as possible to discuss plans.

Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCV)

- 17.13 GCSWS deploys one RCV to cover all three waste streams (recycling, organic, residual) from 3,000 dwellings on a fortnightly collection pattern.
- 17.14 Both Councils have made formal commitments for the GCSWS to decarbonise their fleet of vehicles, including refuse collection vehicles, which contribute a significant proportion to the Councils' Greenhouse Gas emissions. In line with this programme, around half of all new Refuse Collection Vehicles are electric. In line with this commitment, GCSWS are expanding their electric fleet.
- 17.15 The cost of an electric RCV is about £433,000, equivalent to £144 per dwelling. The cost of a diesel RCV is about £240,000, equivalent to £80 per dwelling.
- 17.16 Developers will be required to pay the difference between the average cost of an electric vehicle and a diesel vehicle which is £112 per unit.

Bring Sites

- 17.17 Developers are required to provide hard standing within public realm areas where the Councils can place above ground banks working roughly on the ratio of one set of banks for every 800 dwellings (as per the RECAP Design Guide). The proximity of existing Household Waste Recycling Centre will also be considered in determining number of recycling banks required.

Household Recycling Centres

- 17.18 Household Recycling Centres are provided by the Waste Disposal Authority where members of the public can deliver household wastes for disposal. Recycling facilities may also be provided at these sites.
- 17.19 National legislation and policy seeks to ensure the diversion of waste disposal from landfill through waste minimisation, re-use, recycling and treatment. As a Waste Disposal Authority Cambridgeshire County Council is required by the

Environmental Protection Act 1990 to provide facilities at which residents may deposit their household waste.

- 17.20 The County Council will endeavour to ensure that the implications for waste management arising directly from non-minerals and waste management development are adequately and appropriately addressed. This approach has been taken forward through the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (RECAP), and has, since 2012, been assisted by a RECAP Waste Management Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This SPD sets out practical information on the provision of waste storage, waste collection and recycling in residential and commercial developments. It also includes a Toolkit which developers of such proposals are required to complete and submit as part of their planning application.
- 17.21 Planned housing growth in Cambridgeshire places further pressures on existing facilities and will require a combination of new or improved facilities to meet future demand. Contributions may be sought to deal with the cumulative impact of a series of both small and large developments.
- 17.22 Cambridgeshire County Council will assess the demands that the proposed development would have on existing facilities. Where the County Council concludes that a site currently has sufficient capacity to accommodate the proposed development, no contribution will be sought. However, where the proposed development is likely to result in a facility being unable to accommodate additional waste, contributions will be sought towards the provision of additional capacity.
- 17.23 Cambridgeshire County Council operates two Household Recycling Centres (HRC) in the Greater Cambridge area, at Milton and Thriplow. The County Council is bringing forward plans to redevelop the Milton HRC, to replace the current facility which must close by 2026 under its existing planning consent. The St Neots HRC and Bluntisham HRC, both in Huntingdonshire, have catchment areas that serve some parishes in South Cambridgeshire.
- 17.24 Where necessary, and as a consequence of the RECAP assessment, residential developments in Greater Cambridgeshire will be required to make appropriate contributions towards the improvement of these facilities within their respective catchment areas (see Table 8.1 of the RECAP SPD). The methodology for calculating financial contributions is set out on page 37 of the RECAP SPD.

Exemptions

- 17.25 No specific exceptions.

Further guidance

17.26 Applicants for planning permission should contact the County Council via email at GrowthDevelopment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to obtain pre-application advice in the County Council waste implications for their development

- [RECAP Waste Management Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document](#)
- Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service [Waste and Recycling guide for developers](#).