

Details of the assessment	
Name of Function/Policy/ Service being assessed:	Withdrawal of Saturday Freighter Service
Is the activity...?	New <input type="checkbox"/> (please go to step 1) Existing: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (please go to step 2)
Date of assessment	Commenced: 27/06/22 Completed: Approved by Management Team:
Directorate & Service	Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services
Policy Owner	Robert Styles
Lead Officer	Robert Styles

Step 1	Initial Screening for:	
	This EqlA is an assessment on the possible impact of the Council withdrawing the Saturday Freighter service.	
	Key Questions	Answers/Notes
1	What are you looking to achieve in this activity?	Proposal to cease provision of the freighter service in order to increase the Borough Council's recycling rates, increase uptake of existing kerbside collection services and prevent waste that could be recycled going to landfill or energy-from waste. This will also bring TMBC in line with practice of the majority of district councils in Kent.
2	Who in the main will benefit?	Increase recycling rates across the borough.

Equality Impact Assessment

ANNEX 2

3	Does the activity have the potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Please explain:
		No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please explain: The current Saturday Freighter Service is only accessible to those residents who can get items to the various locations around the borough. The locations themselves have developed over time and are not necessarily based on any specific analysis of local needs. The residents able to use this service are those who either live in the immediate vicinity of the sites, or who own cars to drive items to the locations. For those with cars, it is preferable for them to travel to the Household Waste Recycling Centres to recycle items appropriately. The recent addition by KCC of an HWRC at Allington further increases the options residents have, with sites also at North Farm (near Tonbridge), Dunbrik (towards Sevenoaks) and Cuxton (Medway). The current service generally reinforces inequality as it is still largely reliant on people being mobile and/or able bodied.
		Note: if the answer is 'yes' then a full equality impact assessment is required – see step 2.	
4	Does the activity make a positive contribution to equalities?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please explain: Cancelling the existing service will address the current inequality whereby only a small proportion of the borough's residents - regardless of protected characteristic - benefit from a free alternative to the kerbside Bulky Waste collection service, effectively subsidised by the vast majority of TMBC council taxpayers.
		No <input type="checkbox"/>	Please explain: No – see step 2
		Note: if the answer is 'yes' then a full equality impact assessment is required – see step 2.	

	Key Questions	Answers/Notes
Step 2	Scoping the assessment	
1.	What is the overall aim, or purpose of the function/ policy/service?	To withdraw the Saturday Freighter service
2.	What outcomes do you want to achieve with this function/ policy/service and for whom?	Achieve the most efficient and effective use of resources on behalf of borough residents, increase the Borough Council’s recycling rates and reduce the amount of waste that cannot currently be reused or recycled.
3.	Who is intended to benefit from the function/service/ policy?	TMBC plus wider sustainability benefits for all through increased recycling and reduced residual waste.
4.	Who defines or defined the function/service/policy?	There is no statutory requirement for the Council to provide the Saturday Freighter service. It was provided as a free & convenient option for residents to dispose of bulky waste which they would otherwise have had to take to one of the neighbouring Household Waste Recycling Centres or used the Bulky Collection Service to dispose of. A request was made to review this service following a two-year suspension, originally instigated due to the Covid pandemic
5.	Who implements the function/service/policy?	Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services
6.	How do the outcomes of the function/service/policy meet or conflict other policies, values or objectives of the public authority (if applicable)?	Please indicate which of the Council’s Key Priorities these outcomes relate to:
		Achieving efficiency <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Embracing effective partnership working and funding <input type="checkbox"/>
		Valuing our environment and encouraging sustainable growth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Innovation <input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		Any other comments: The measure will contribute to the aims of the Borough Council’s Climate Change Strategy and action plan

	Key Questions	Answers/Notes
7.	Are there any factors that could contribute or detract from the outcomes identified earlier?	Reinstating the service would and facilitate the disposal of potentially recyclable waste in an unsustainable way. It would also conflict with the aims of the council's Climate Change Strategy.
Step 3 Consideration of data and information		
8.	What do you already know about who uses this function/service/ policy?	Members of the public, mostly able-bodied individuals who live immediately adjacent to the current locations, or who have access to their own transport to travel to the sites.
9.	Has any consultation with service users already taken place on the function/service/ policy and if so what were the key findings?	None. However, levels of complaints received by Waste Services about the ongoing suspension of the service have been very low since the initial suspension. The occasional enquiry is received but these residents are sign posted to alternative - and sustainable - disposal methods.
10.	What, if any, additional information is needed to assess the impact of the function/service/policy?	N/A
11.	How do you propose to gather the additional information?	N/A
Step 4 Assessing the Impact		
12.	Based on what information you already know, in relation to each of the following groups consider whether a) there is anything in the function/service/policy that could discriminate or put anyone at a disadvantage b) for an existing function/service/policy, how it is actually working in practice for each group	
a.	Equality groups	Age
b.		Disability
c.		Gender
d.		Race
e.		Religion/Belief
f.		Sexual Orientation
g.		Marital or Civil Partnership Status
h.		Pregnancy & Maternity
i.		Gender reassignment
		N/A
		N/A
		N/A
		N/A
		N/A
		N/A
		N/A
		N/A

	Key Questions	Answers/Notes
j.	General/other	N/A
Step 5	Reviewing and Scrutinising the Impact	
13.	What conclusions can you draw about any differential impact and how people are adversely or positively affected?	The Council recognises that removal of the freighter service will not have a particularly negative impact on any groups with protected characteristics, over and above the general population. In fact, the removal of the service will remove the existing inequalities as the service is not equally accessible to all residents regardless of protected characteristics. Members of the community who used this service and have their own transport may have to drive further to a Household Waste Recycling Centre. Other residents can utilise the existing Bulky Collection service which is accessible to all residents.
14.	What actions can you take to address any impacts identified?	The existing alternative disposal options will be promoted via the council's website, social media channels and other media activity. Officers will monitor levels of service requests for the Bulky Collection service to assess any impact on uptake, particularly from residents eligible for the concessionary rate for those collections.
15.	If no changes can be made, what reasons are there to justify this?	The decision to withdraw the freighter service will not disproportionately impact on a specific group/person with protected characteristics. Some members of the community may find it inconvenient, but It should be noted that the provision of this service is not a statutory duty and many district councils do not provide it. It should also be noted that providing this service facilitates the disposal of waste that could otherwise be recycled. In this context, the Council believes that this decision is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.
16.	How might any of the changes, in relation to the adverse impact, have a further adverse affect on any other group?	N/A
Step 6	Decision making and future monitoring	
17.	Which decision making process do these changes need to go through i.e. do they need to be approved by a committee/Council?	Cabinet

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