

DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Refuse Collection Vehicle Weights Policy



Introduction to Policy

- 1.1 Down District Council (DDC) operates a series of refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) for the collection of waste and it is the Council's policy that no vehicle shall be driven in an overweight state.

Purpose

- 2.1 It is the purpose of this policy to facilitate the effective management and use of these vehicles in relation to load carrying capabilities.

This policy will ensure that RCVs are loaded appropriately to safeguard employees, protect Council assets and ensure compliance with appropriate legislation.

Scope of Policy

- 3.1 This Policy and associated procedures will be amended from time to time in response to changing circumstances, operational and legislative requirements.
- 3.2 The Council will ensure, as far as practicably possible, that individual users are made aware of these changes when they occur.
- 3.3 The most current version of the policy and operating procedures will however always be available on the Council's Intranet site and can be provided in paper form if required. Paper copies will also be available from Supervisors and, it is the responsibility of the Supervisors to ensure that staff are made aware of any changes and are kept up-to-date with the latest requirements.
- 3.4 All RCV drivers will receive training in relation to their roles and responsibilities regarding the policy and associated procedures. Procedures applies to all drivers of RCVs or other DDC vehicles used for carrying waste, refuse or any other material.

Gross Vehicle Weights

- 4.1 All RCVs are designed with specific load carrying capabilities. These capabilities are given to ensure:-
 - The safe operation of the vehicle when it is in use.
 - Suspension, steering, braking loads etc remain within their designed capacities.
 - The compliance with appropriate legislation

All Council RCVs display a Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) information plate.

- 4.3 For the purpose of uniformity and clarity for drivers, Gross Vehicle Weight information labels are located on the top right of the windscreen. If a GVW information label is damaged, defaced or missing it is the driver's responsibility to inform their supervisor immediately to enable a replacement to be fitted.
- 4.4 Before using a RCV, a driver should check the GVW plate to ensure they are familiar with the specific load carrying capabilities of their vehicle.
- 4.5 Driving an overloaded vehicle is a disciplinary offence and drivers so doing will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Council's Disciplinary procedures.

Equality Impact Assessment

Version 7.0 (Apr 2009)

This Policy has been assessed under Down District Council's Equality Impact Assessment process and has been screened out as having no impact on any of the groups designated in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Issued by Operations Manager
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