

Waste & Recycling Review – Recommendation 4

1. The phased introduction of the plastic & cardboard collections has been detailed within the implementation plan, however further detailed analysis and review has also been considered for areas which traditionally have had poor participation rates and where kerbside collection methods are not operationally viable. The size and types of containers used, storage issues and logistics of certain property types have also been considered and findings to date are as follows:

Households in the Borough where residual waste is collected from the rear of the property – Back Lanes

2. There are currently 7131 properties in the borough that have their waste collected from a back lane, these properties all have current means of recycling that mirror other areas in the borough, i.e. paper, glass and tin cans. Dry Recycling is currently collected from the kerbside with residents using a 55 litre blue box container for glass and cans and a 47 litre blue bag for collection of paper.
3. Due to the success of the pilot scheme in Back-Lane areas it is proposed that 'back lane' properties' will continue to have their recycling collected from the front of the property from the kerbside and that Plastic & Cardboard collections will also be collected from the front of the property, as customer feedback indicates a high level of satisfaction with current collection arrangements.
4. A Total of 505 back lane properties were included in the original trial of plastic & cardboard collections and contributed to the overall success of the trial as well as the high resident satisfaction levels. It is however recognised that the current containers offered for kerbside collections to those properties with a back lane may, in some terraced areas cause residents difficulties with regard to storage, and therefore may have an adverse impact on participation rates. Therefore a flexible approach will be taken with residents in these areas which will give these residents options for alternative containers as follows: -
 - Disposable plastic bags for plastic & cardboard, the bags will be purchased within existing resources and it is estimated that 10,000 bags with 26 bags to a roll will be purchased, properties will be issued with 1 roll of bags per year upon request, the bags can be placed at the kerbside in place of the usual containers and the bag will be recycled along with the plastic/cardboard stored.
 - Smaller recycling boxes can be made available for those residents where the current 55 litre blue box does not meet their requirements, whether this be in terms of usability or storage problems.
 - Communal containers, large 1100 or 1280 litre lockable containers can be placed in those back lanes with a lockable alley gate and flat surface dressing (i.e. tarmac surface/concrete) from all back lane properties there are 1284 properties with an alley gated tarmac surface, 29 properties with an alley gated concrete surface. It is not appropriate to install communal containers in areas without secured alley gates due to risk of arson, fly-tipping and other community safety issues.
5. These alternative options will be offered to residents as soon as practicable during implementation of the new plastic and cardboard collections. Feedback on these various options will also be collected during the consultation exercise during each phase of introduction and will form party of the formal review of the impact of the new service.

Collection and Storage in High Rise Blocks and Sheltered Housing Accommodation

6. There are currently a total of 38 sites across the borough where it is not possible for a normal kerbside collection service to be offered to residents due to constraints of space, storage area or logistics. Currently alternative means of recycling is offered, such as underground communal recycling facilities, communal above ground containers either within the boundary of the scheme or at alternative community recycling sites within the locality.
7. Plastic & Cardboard collections will be rolled out to all residents across the borough and these 38 schemes will all be rolled out during phase 3 of the Plastic & Cardboard Service (October 2009). Prior to the roll out of each of the 3 phases and during the 3 month initial consultation period extensive/separate consultation will be carried out with the residents of each individual scheme in order to offer a range of options and determine the most suitable introduction of the service.
8. A range of options will be offered, such as extension of current facilities where the space and logistics are available or additional communal/community containers as close to the accommodation as possible.

Options for home recycling units to be made available for sale through Council service points.

9. Two focus groups were held during May 2008: (22nd May 2008, Youth Focus Group and 28th May 2008 Adult Focus Group). Five different options were presented to the focus groups, which covered a wide spectrum in terms of price and size in view of the different demographics within the Borough. The focus groups were instrumental in providing a user perspective of which containers met the needs of residents in terms of usability, storage and cost effectiveness. It is intended that the top three kitchen storage receptacles chosen by the focus groups will be made available as stock items from the introduction of phase one.
10. Letters of interest were also sent to 6 Art and Design Colleges / Universities within the North East region (including those within the Borough) in order to identify whether any of them had the facilities or the ability to manufacture a range of home based recycling units. Home recycling units are also to be made available for purchase through council service points as well as from a local approved SBC supplier.



Provision for recycling and waste storage areas in new housing developments

11. Paragraph 2.1.16 of Minerals & Waste Development Plan Document now includes the following criteria 'The re-use, recovery and recycling of waste can be encouraged by ensuring that there are suitable facilities available within developments to store different types of materials (e.g. glass, paper, plastics etc)
12. It is already clear that the local planning guidelines have been useful in encouraging new development and developments to take account of the requirements for adequate communal recycling provision as opposed to the traditional refuse bin store areas. The weekly one stop shop meetings are used to highlight the requirement for communal recycling and residual waste storage areas within the footprint of the development at a very early stage. Officers from Waste Management and CFYA attend these meetings and also liaise directly with developers to identify suitable locations and size of communal areas / containers during the development as well as providing recycling literature and information packs which are made available to prospective and existing residents.
13. In order to demonstrate an example of the types of storage available, the photographs shown below are of the Earls Court development, Norton Road where consultation with the building developer was instrumental in the creation of the communal waste & recycling storage areas.

