

Place Committee Summary Report Jan 2016

Review of Kerbside Waste Collection 2015-16

'To consider the current systems for the kerbside collection of household waste materials.'

Summary of presentations

Throughout the review of kerbside waste collection a number of presentations have been delivered by the Director of Community Services Jamie McCann. The presentations have given a detailed breakdown of waste and recycling services currently delivered by the Care For Your Area team as well as Stockton's position nationally, the value of the authorities material, regional and national benchmarking and the composition analysis of SBC's household kerbside collected waste.

Recapping the information which has been heard by the committee, which highlighted:

What we do now

Residual Waste serviced by a weekly waste collection using 240ltr wheeled bins or black waste sacks. A larger container, if qualified, of a 360ltr bin can be requested for residents with 5 or more permanent occupants.

Recycling waste collected in a 'one pass' vehicle with 3 compartments for dry recycling material:

- Blue Box (55 litres) – glass and batteries (was previously used for tins prior to 2013)
- Blue Bag (47 litres) – paper, junk mail, magazines etc
- White Bag (47 litres & 75 litres) – plastic, cardboard and tins

Green Waste collected using a reusable hessian type sack (chargeable at £2 per bag) as well as option for a roll of 26 x disposal, clear sacks (chargeable at £3 per roll).

Dry recycling materials are collected fortnightly (Tuesday – Friday) all year round with Green Waste provided as a 'seasonal service' over 26 weeks from Easter onwards.

Current recycling statistics

In 2013-2014, Stockton was ranked at 322 of 352 Local Authorities for the overall recycling rate. This is the amount of household waste sent for recycling by the authority rather than disposal through EFW or Landfill.

New information has now been published for 2014-2015, through www.letsrecycle.com, which shows Stockton have now fallen to **331 out of 352**.

Information can be found for 2014-2015 online: <http://www.letsrecycle.com/councils/league-tables/201415-overall-performance-6/>

Stockton Borough Council in 2014/15 had a recycling rate of **26.6%** with the national target for England being **45%**.

Site visits

In order to further understand the processes involved in treating waste and recycling material the committee were invited to J&B Recycling Ltd to see how the recycling material collected by the authority is sorted/treated and also to visit the EFW plant at Haverton Hill in order to understand the green wheeled bin waste disposal process.

It was explained by Matt Tyrie, Transport Manager at J&B Recycling Ltd, that the material delivered by SBC is of a very high quality and in his view, by collecting separately, was 'the best way to collect the material'. Through sorting at kerbside contamination levels are significantly reduced and the material achieves the highest yield.

The committee were given a tour of the facility at Hartlepool, including examples of a number of alternative material mix deliveries, which ranged from SBC's pre-sorted material to a fully comingled delivery. It was also explained the sorting processes required by J&B for each material makeup type and the value and contamination of the outputs.

Costs associated with SBC's model of collection and comingled collections.

- Average income received by SBC for Kerbside Recycling - £26 per tonne
- Average gate fee (Oct 15) for a co-mingled mix of materials - £45 per tonne (Stockton does not incur this cost and actually receives an income for a clean load)
- Based upon 2015/16 projections, it is expected that SBC generate an income of £215,010 based upon existing collection methods i.e. separation at kerbside
- Based upon 2014/15 collected recycling tonnages, the cost for Stockton in changing to a co-mingled (single bin) collection process would be £395,820 per year. This does not include the cost of issuing new containers at approx £1.6m, increase in material collected or increase in material rejected for disposal.

Taking account of current income, this would result in a minimum swing of £610,830 (due to the £215,010 reduction in income and the additional £395,820 increase in disposal gate fee) in disposal costs alone should the collection methodology change – significant increase on revenue budgets before any capital investment

Green Waste

Green waste collections were discussed including the 26 week seasonal collection dates, material that can be collected within the green waste material and the possibility of investigating using an external waste collector to perform the service.

It was discussed that the green waste service would continue to form and run alongside the current review. The current collection service was reduced to 26 weeks from 30 weeks due to previous efficiency measures.

Food Waste

Food waste was discussed briefly however due to the non-availability of a local final destination to the authority on treating this material, at present the option of collecting separate food waste would not be possible.

Food waste collection/treatment will be reviewed regularly and assessed if and/or when new technologies and facilities come available.

Benchmarking

There has been in depth comparison work undertaken in order to benchmark against other local and similar authorities based on similar population characteristics, predominately mixed urban/rural, higher deprivation.

The overall picture has shown that Stockton is out of trend with a lot of what is happening with those other local authorities in relation to increased waste generation and also a reduction in the amount of material being sent for recycling.

Local Tees Valley council's information

Recycling Rates – 2014/15

Hartlepool BC	37.98 %
Middlesbrough BC	36.32 %
Redcar & Cleveland BC	47.35 %
Stockton BC	26.60 %

Waste Delivery – All Municipal Waste 2014/15

Hartlepool BC	27,998 tonnes
Middlesbrough BC	37,024 tonnes
Redcar & Cleveland BC	42,838 tonnes
Stockton BC	65,886 tonnes

The below chart also shows the trend relating to waste disposed of by the above authorities since 2006/07 to 2014/15. The chart shows the annual waste disposal tonnages trends for the above 4 local authorities and the position of travel seen since 2009/10.

Table 1. Tees Valley trends

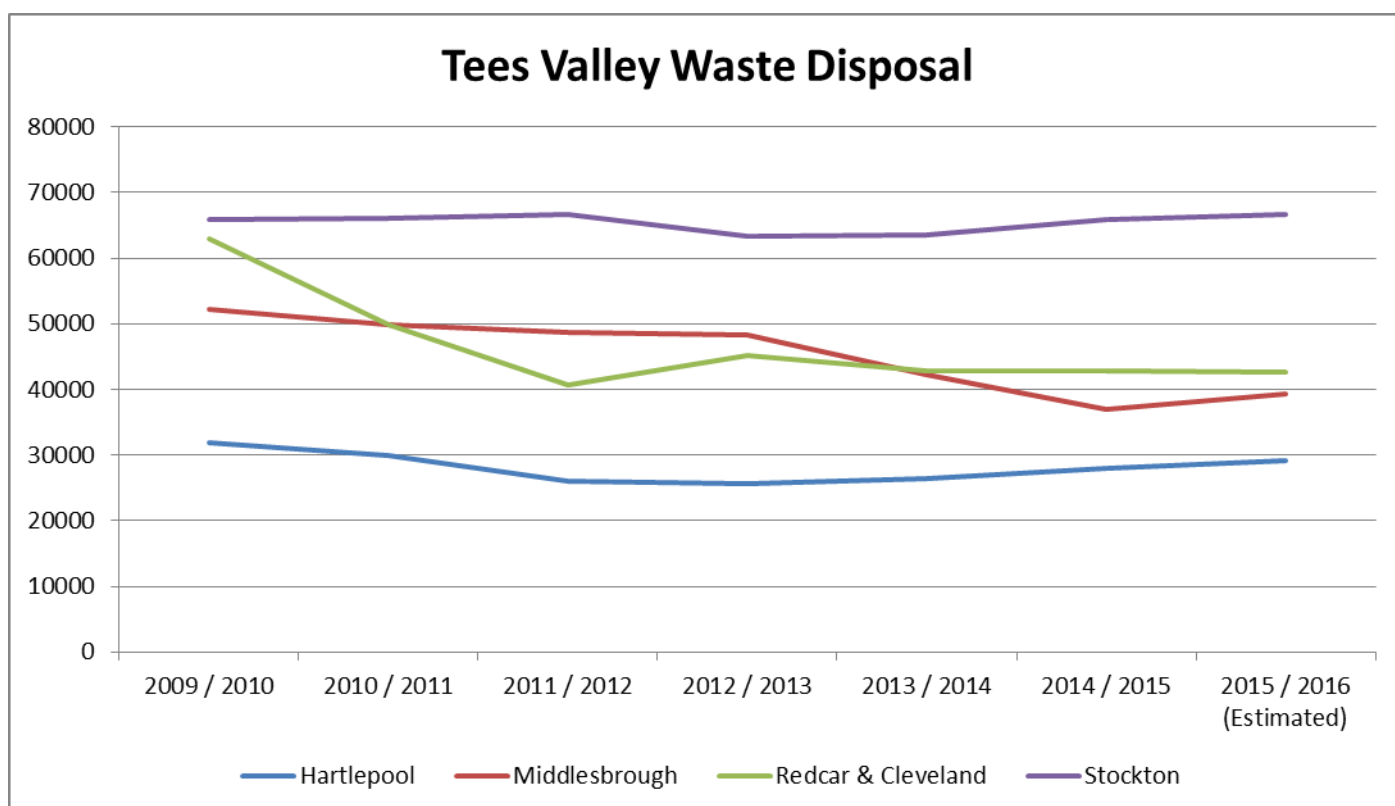


Table 2. Detail relating to those authorities that have similar characteristics

Council	Wheeled Bin Service	Dry Recycling Service	Green Waste Service	Overall Recycling Rate	Property No	Collection Method	KG/HH/ YR 2013/14	KG/HH/ YR 2014/15
Stockton Borough Council	Weekly	Bags & Boxes Fortnightly	Bags Fortnightly (Seasonal)	27.89%	83,590	In-house	613kg	718kg
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	Fortnightly	Bag & Boxes Weekly	Wheeled Bin Fortnightly	40.06 %	132,000	Waste Management Company	494kg	630kg
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Fortnightly	Bag & Boxes Fortnightly	Wheeled Bin Fortnightly	41.58 %	115,000	In-house	512kg	?
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	Fortnightly	Wheeled Bin Fortnightly	Wheeled Bin Fortnightly	46.68 %	61,549	In-house	435kg	484kg
Darlington Borough Council	Fortnightly	Bag & Boxes Fortnightly	No Service	33.04 %	48,690	In-house	545kg	?

Current service costs

Table 3. Current service costs

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 Projected Outturn
Kerbside Recycling Collection costs	1,484,387	1,437,491	1,413,496	1,139,852	1,128,771
Kerbside Recycling income	-586,217	-434,751	-375,848	-281,408	-215,010
Kerbside Recycling Net Cost	898,169	1,002,741	1,037,648	858,444	913,761
Green Waste Collection costs	321,697	440,957	348,749	424,689	366,307
Green Waste Disposal costs	99,486	120,033	114,110	104,824	122,000
Green Waste Income	-45,774	-38,748	-36,667	-52,695	-45,000
Green Waste Net Cost	375,409	522,241	426,191	476,818	443,307
Domestic Refuse Collection costs	2,027,552	1,913,881	1,807,579	2,018,788	2,145,550
Domestic Refuse Disposal costs	3,784,588	2,979,830	3,672,893	4,100,901	4,444,459
Domestic Refuse Net Costs	5,812,140	4,893,711	5,480,472	6,119,689	6,590,009

M.E.L composition analysis

The analysis work that has been undertaken by M.E.L Research has provided a number of key findings, those findings are detailed below:

Kerbside residual waste

- 69% of households sampled presented residual waste for collection each week
- 5.4% of residual waste consisted of recyclable paper (Blue Bag) each week
- 9.7% of residual waste consisted of recyclable plastic, card and cans (White Bag) each week
- 4.8% of residual waste consisted of recyclable glass (Blue Box) each week
- 11% of residual waste consisted of recyclable garden waste (Green Waste) each week

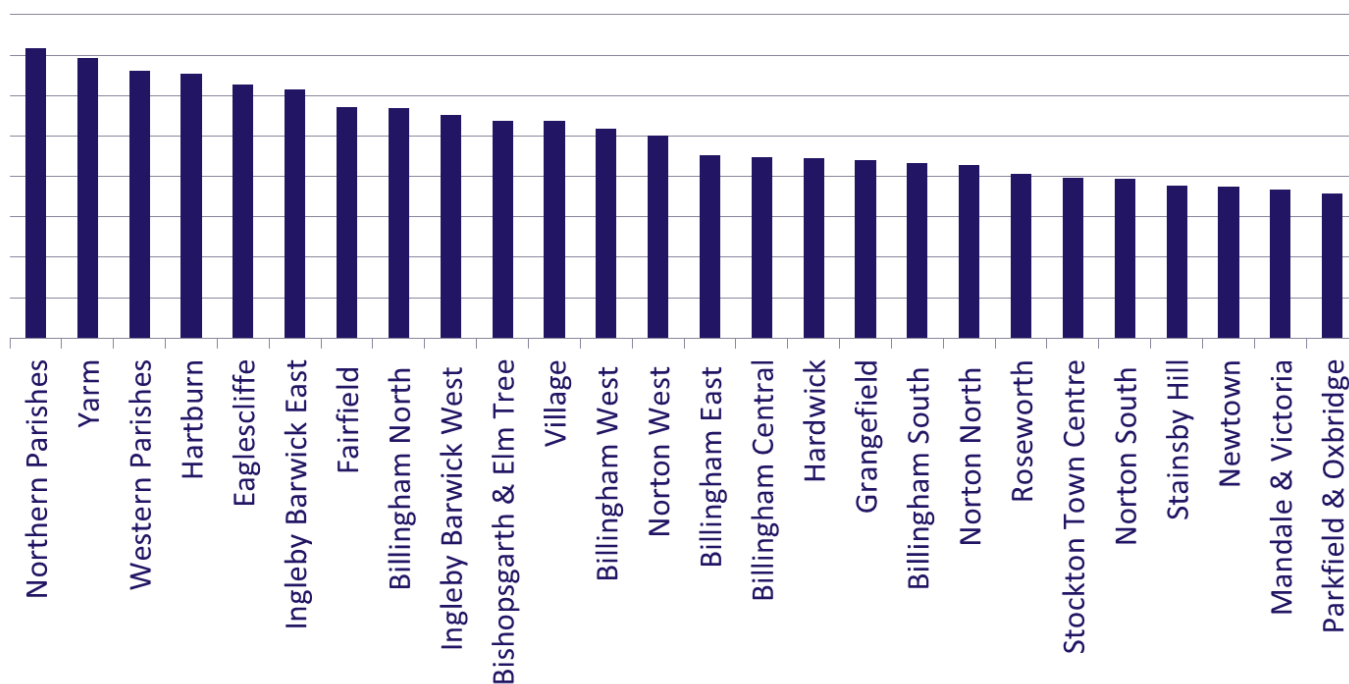
Kerbside recycling

- On average 17% of the household sampled presented blue bags for collection each collection day
- On average 33% of households sampled presented white bags for collection each collection day
- On average 25% of households sampled presented blue box for collection each collection day
- On average 18% of households sampled presented green waste bags for collection each collection day

It can be seen from the information provided that there is a large amount of recyclable material finding its way in the residual waste stream container for disposal. A total of 30.9% of the waste being presented for disposal is recyclable through the current recycling kerbside scheme.

Table 4. Ward by Ward breakdown chart

Participation Level by Ward (tons)



Drivers for Recycling

From the information provided it can be seen that there is a requirement for the residents to change from disposing of waste via the green refuse wheeled bins.

We know from the detail presented that the recycling rates for household waste need to increase. Evidence provided in table 2 and research into best practice shows that through reducing the capacity for residual waste disposal increases recycling participation and increases tonnages.

The composition analysis provides details on the behaviours of a number of Acorn groups within the borough, analysing data from 4 groups:















- Acorn 1 – Affluent Achievers
- Acorn 3 – Comfortable Communities
- Acorn 4 – Financially Stretched
- Acorn 5 – Urban Adversity

From the analysis it can be seen that those categorised in Acorn 5 recycle very little using the kerbside recycling service however also do not generate much 'general' waste. Any waste generated is placed in the general waste wheeled bin and is possible due to the capacity available for disposal, 240ltr's.

The main producers of waste, both general refuse and recycling, are from the Acorn 1 group. The same behaviour of utilising the capacity of the wheeled bin container to deal with all waste both general and recycling applies, albeit this acorn group are recycling a larger quantity of material. Participation can be seen when viewing the ward by ward breakdown in table 4.

Education has been discussed thoroughly and new information will be available to show a more 'picture' document of the material accepted by the treatment facility, an example of this can be seen below. Work will also be scheduled to ensure any potential changes will combine a full communications and implementation plan to ensure residents have all detailed information to ensure minimum confusion.

Example of 'yes and no' list of materials (for illustration purposes only)

YES					RECYCLING ONLY					NO																			
Put these items in your recycling cart.															DO NOT put these items in your recycling cart.														
																													
Plastic jugs	Plastic bottles (necks smaller than base)	Plastic tubs	Shredded paper	Paper Cartons - Milk cartons and juice boxes	Batteries or electronics	Hazardous or toxic product containers	Phone books	Mail, mixed paper, and catalogs	Magazines	Newspaper & Inserts	Take out pizza boxes	Flower pots, plastic toys	Frozen food bags	Plastic and metal hangers															
							Glass jars & bottles	Clean metal food cans	Aluminum cans	Clean aluminum foil wrap and pans	Aerosol cans	Light bulbs, drinking glasses, other glassware	Food & wet waste, food contaminated paper plates and napkins																
							Plastic bags	Corrugated cardboard (flattened)	Boxboard, cereal boxes, frozen food boxes	Pots & pans, scrap metal, ceramics	Styrofoam containers, styrofoam peanuts or packing	Chip bags	Propane tanks																