
**REFUSE COLLECTION (WHEELED BINS) REVIEW GROUP –
PROGRESS REPORT**

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Nick Wallis,
Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Richard Alty, Director of Place

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To report the initial findings and recommendations of the Refuse Collection (Wheeled Bins) Review Group being undertaken by the Place Scrutiny Committee, established to examine the introduction of wheeled bins in the Borough. This report makes specific recommendations regarding the implementation of a Wheeled Bin Collection System within the Borough.

Summary

2. At a meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 19 April 2012 consideration was given to a 'call-in' from the Cabinet held on 3 April 2012 (Minute C147(2)/Apr/12) in relation to its decisions in respect of the Refuse Collection. At that meeting it was agreed to establish a Task and Finish Review Group. Terms of Reference were approved at the Scrutiny Meeting held on 14 June 2012 and all Members of the Scrutiny Committee were invited to participate in the Review. A wide number of issues were discussed and considered at the meetings and a visit was taken to a neighbouring authority to ascertain whether any problems were encountered during implementation of the wheeled bin system.
3. At its meeting held on 20 December 2012, Place Scrutiny Committee approved a number of recommendations of the Review Group for consideration by Cabinet.

Recommendation

4. That Cabinet be requested to consider the following recommendations of the Place Scrutiny Committee :-
 - (a) That residents be advised that it is essential that wheeled bins are not stored outside the curtilage, or on the street of properties, before or after collection unless there are unusual circumstances;

- (b) That the individual consultation and visits to residents continue as they have proved to be a very useful exercise;
- (c) That monitoring recycling rates is essential to assess the impact of the introduction of wheeled bins and therefore Place Scrutiny Committee should review this aspect after a year of operation in 2014;
- (d) That, as there is a continuing need to encourage recycling, a label be attached to the lid of each bin with the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' message or a variation of it;
- (e) That the comprehensive plans for on-going publicity be applauded as residents need to be made aware of new collection dates from 29th April, the deployment of the bins in mid-June and necessary information as and when thereafter;
- (f) That the use of collection points be kept to a minimum and the bins be collected from the immediate vicinity of the household wherever possible;
- (g) That a consistent approach to the design of bin stores on public and private housing estates be encouraged;
- (h) That householders be encouraged to make use of the space provided on the top of their bins for their house number to ensure a consistent solution to the identification of the bin with the premises;
- (i) That, as there could be a business opportunity for the cleaning of wheeled bins, households be given guidance relating to the potential increase in traders as residents need to be made aware that such traders need to be licensed;
- (j) That discussions be held with the Durham Constabulary and the Anti-Social Behaviour team regarding potential anti-social behaviour as there is a risk that anti-social behaviour could increase with regard to wheeled bins being stolen, set on fire or used as a means of entry;
- (k) That further advice be provided on storage of wheeled bins at the end of farm tracks and similar households in rural areas;
- (l) That further advice on the regulatory framework be received.

Reasons

5. To ensure that the residents in Darlington are continually updated to reduce the issues in the lead up to and following the implementation of the wheeled bins service.

**Richard Alty,
Director of Place**

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	It is not considered that there will be a significant impact on crime and disorder as a result of this report, however on occasions wheeled bins have been used in other areas to assist in criminal activity. In addition, a number of secondary fires are a result of refuse and other household waste being left out for collection either loose or within wheeled bins.
Health and Well Being	By providing this efficient refuse and recycling collection system does have a positive impact on the health and well-being of residents.
Carbon Impact	It is anticipated that there may be an increase in recycling as a result of introducing wheeled bins by reduced capacity therefore this could potentially have a positive impact on carbon output
Diversity	The collection system will be universal across the Borough and the Council's existing Assisted Collection policy will continue where individuals because of their personal circumstances are unable to place the wheeled bin out for collection
Wards Affected	All Wards will be affected
Groups Affected	The refuse collection service will operate across the Borough, providing the same service to all residents therefore there is no particular impact on any one group.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report has no impact on the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This report does not constitute a Key Decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not considered an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The implementation of a wheeled bin service does not particularly impact on the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy, though will reduce litter and improve the environment in that way
Efficiency	Wheeled bins provide the opportunity for containment of refuse and therefore there will be efficiencies with regard to street cleansing

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. The Refuse Collection (Wheeled Bins) Review Group was established to examine the introduction of wheeled bins in the Borough following a 'call in' from the Cabinet held on 3 April 2012 (Minute C147(2)/Apr/12) in relation to its decisions in respect of the Refuse Collection.

Review Group

7. A wide number of issues have been considered and discussed at the meetings and this report describes the outcome of the Review Group to date, summarises the work undertaken, the findings from the processes and the subsequent recommendations.
8. The Refuse Collection (Wheeled Bins) Review Group has met on four occasions and undertaken a visit Durham County Council's South Durham Depot at Chilton. The Group has not finished its investigations and will submit a report to a future meeting of Cabinet.

Interim Findings of the Review Group

9. The following are the interim findings of the Review Group :-
 - (a) Positive feedback had been received from residents following Ward Consultation by Members;
 - (b) It has been anticipated that the number of assisted collection requests may increase and therefore Officers would be visiting each resident to undertake a full assessment and alleviate any concerns;
 - (c) Residents had concerns regarding the storage of the wheeled bins;
 - (d) An awareness raising campaign, including displays of bins at supermarkets and Council buildings, is being undertaken to alleviate residents' concerns regarding the wheeled bins;
 - (e) There were currently no plans to charge residents for replacement wheeled bins;
 - (f) Special arrangements would need to be made for residents of houses in multiple occupation;
 - (g) Alterations would be required to bin stores on housing estates to accommodate the wheeled bin;
 - (h) A comprehensive list detailing problem areas was being addressed;

- (i) There were no changes planned to the green box and blue bag recycling facility;
- (j) All refuse vehicles are to be fitted with lifts and staff will be trained by the supplier of any new vehicles purchased; and
- (k) The move to wheeled bin collections is universally accepted by the operatives.

Interim Recommendations of the Review Group

10. The Place Scrutiny Committee agreed to accept and endorse the following recommendations and to forward to Cabinet for consideration :
- (a) That residents be advised that it is essential that wheeled bins are not stored outside the curtilage, or on the street of properties, before or after collection unless there are unusual circumstances;
 - (b) That the individual consultation and visits to residents continue as they have proved to be a very useful exercise;
 - (c) That monitoring recycling rates is essential to assess the impact of the introduction of wheeled bins and therefore Place Scrutiny Committee should review this aspect after a year of operation in 2014;
 - (d) That, as there is a continuing need to encourage recycling, a label be attached to the lid of each bin with the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' message or a variation of it;
 - (e) That the comprehensive plans for on-going publicity be applauded as residents need to be made aware of new collection dates from 29th April, the deployment of the bins in mid-June and necessary information as and when thereafter;
 - (f) That the use of collection points be kept to a minimum and the bins be collected from the immediate vicinity of the household wherever possible;
 - (g) That a consistent approach to the design of bin stores on public and private housing estates be encouraged;
 - (h) That householders be encouraged to make use of the space provided on the top of their bins for their house number to ensure a consistent solution to the identification of the bin with the premises;
 - (i) That, as there could be a business opportunity for the cleaning of wheeled bins, households be given guidance relating to the potential increase in traders as residents need to be made aware that such traders need to be licensed;
 - (j) That discussions be held with the Durham Constabulary and the Anti-Social Behaviour team regarding potential anti-social behaviour as there is a risk that anti-social behaviour could increase with regard to wheeled bins being stolen,

set on fire or used as a means of entry;

(k) That further advice be provided on storage of wheeled bins at the end of farm tracks and similar households in rural areas;

(l) That further advice on the regulatory framework be received.

Views of Director of Place

11. The recommendations of the Place Scrutiny Committee are already planned or can be accommodated within the programme and budget.