

---

**REFUSE COLLECTION (WHEELED BINS) REVIEW GROUP –  
FINAL 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 final 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. The final Report of the Review Group is attached **(Appendix 1)**.

**Summary**

2. At a meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 19th April consideration was given to a 'call-in' from the Cabinet held on 3rd 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 Review Group. Terms of Reference were approved at the Scrutiny Meeting held on 14th 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 20th December, 2012, Place Scrutiny Committee agreed twelve interim recommendations of the Review Group which were approved by Cabinet on 5th February 2013.
4. At its meeting held on 5th September, 2013 Place Scrutiny Committee approved a number of recommendations for submission to Cabinet.

**Recommendation**

5. Cabinet be requested to endorse the following recommendations of the Place Scrutiny Committee :-

(a) Cabinet notes that :-

(i) the thanks of the Refuse Collection (Wheeled Bins) Review Group, for the successful wheeled bins introduction in the Borough, has been conveyed to all employees;

(ii) Place Scrutiny Committee will monitor progress in 2014 on the following :-

- (1) Recycling Rates;
- (2) Fly Tipping;
- (3) Replacement wheeled bin costs; and
- (4) General operational issues.

(iii) Place Scrutiny Committee will consider a detailed financial breakdown including savings on street cleansing;

(iv) Members of Place Scrutiny Committee will visit John Wade Waste Management during the Autumn; and

(b) That the idea of engaging educational establishments on waste management be investigated.

### **Reason**

6. The recommendations are supported to conclude the work undertaken by the Place Scrutiny Committee Review Group into the introduction of wheeled bins within the Borough of Darlington.

**Richard Alty**  
**Director of Place**

**Paul Wildsmith**  
**Director of Resources**

### **Background Papers**

Notes of the meetings of the Refuse Collection (Wheeled Bins) Review Group

Karen Graves : Extension 2291

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.
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	The financial impact of introducing wheeled bins is included in the current MTFP. The cost of introduction was £374,600 in 2013/14 and £314,600 per annum thereafter.
Key Decision	This is not considered 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

7. The 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 3rd April, 2012 (Minute C147(2)/Apr/12) in relation to its decisions in respect of the Refuse Collection.

### Review Group

8. A wide number of issues have been considered and discussed at the meetings and during a visit to a neighbouring authority. This report describes the outcome of the Review Group, summarises the work undertaken, the findings from the processes and the subsequent recommendations.
9. The Refuse Collection (Wheeled Bins) Review Group has met on seven occasions and undertaken a visit Durham County Council's South Durham Depot at Chilton to ascertain whether any problems were encountered during implementation of the wheeled bins system.
10. The Place Scrutiny Committee agreed to accept and endorse the following recommendations and to forward to Cabinet for consideration :-
  - (a) That the thanks of the Refuse Collection (Wheeled Bins) Review Group, for the successful wheeled bins introduction in the Borough, be conveyed to all employees;
  - (b) That Place Scrutiny Committee would like to monitor progress in 2014 on the following :-
    - (i) Recycling Rates;
    - (ii) Fly Tipping;
    - (iii) Replacement wheeled bin costs; and
    - (iv) General operational issues.
  - (c) That Place Scrutiny Committee receives a detailed financial breakdown including savings on street cleansing;
  - (d) That a visit for Members of Place Scrutiny Committee to John Wade Waste management be arranged during the Autumn; and
  - (e) That the idea of engaging educational establishments on waste management be investigated.