



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	<i>Recycling Overview and Performance, Mandatory Food Segregation for Businesses Position and Fly Tipping Update</i>
Report to	<i>Environment & Climate Action Scrutiny Panel</i>
Date of Meeting	<i>24th October 2023</i>
Cabinet Member	<i>Cllr Rick Jewell</i>
Executive Director / Director	<i>Simon Pollock / Doug Wilkinson</i>
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Ward(s) affected	
Classification	<i>Part 1 Public</i>
Reason for exemption	<i>Not Applicable</i>

Purpose of Report

1. To update the panel on the work undertaken across the Council in relation to:
 - The Council's recycling service and how this is communicated to residents
 - The Council's recycling performance
 - Mandatory food waste segregation for businesses
 - Fly tipping and enforcement

Main Considerations for the Panel

2. To consider the current approach to how the recycling service is communicated to residents
3. To consider the Council's recycling performance

4. To consider the approach to recycling of waste produced by commercial properties
5. To consider the ongoing strategy of preventing fly tipping in the first instance; and then where this occurs the investigation and enforcement options available

Background and Options

Recycling Service:

6. Every tonne of waste recycled saves the Council around c.£85-90. These savings can be realised from diverting waste from the residual waste stream to the dry recycling stream. Every 1% of refuse diverted to recycling would save c.£85,000-95,000 per year.
7. The waste sector is currently undergoing significant changes with regards to legislation. The requirements under this new legislation are around increasing recycling in communal situations for example, adopting more circular economy approaches, and enhancing the service offering to residents. The Council has set out its commitment to meeting the new requirements in its Reduction and Recycling Plan, which is a requirement of the Mayor of London's London Environment Strategy.
8. Enfield currently offer the following recycling and refuse services for residents:
 - Alternate weekly collection of recycling and refuse via wheeled bin or sacks (where wheeled bins are not suitable) for kerbside properties.
 - Food waste is collected weekend from kerbside properties weekly.
 - Charged garden waste service for kerbside properties. These are collected all year round, fortnightly and cost £80 per bin, per year.
 - Communal recycling and bins are used for flats and estates. These are collected twice weekly.
 - Free bulky waste service is available to all residents for up to 6 items
9. Recycling communications are developed in partnership with our corporate Communications Team. Materials are designed to provide important information for residents on how to use the recycling service and be as clear as possible using images and photos (please see examples below). Recently, we have developed our Rubbish and Recycling Collection Policy and made it available on our website. This breaks the collection service down into clearly labelled sections making it easier for residents to find the information required (link to the policy: [here](#)). Further, all residents have received our guide about Rubbish, Recycling and Food Waste – this is also available on our website for residents ([overview of our kerbside service](#)). The website also includes videos explaining how to use our services (with British Sign Language) and also clips from the Cllr Jewel video with information, tips and advice on the

services we provide. These are often shared on our social media platforms. The full video can be found on [YouTube](#).



10. DEFRA are proposing the introduction of new statutory requirements for Waste Collection Authorities in England. Under the terms of the new Environment Act 2021 and the National Resource and Waste Strategy for England, DEFRA aim to deliver on the ambition to achieve higher recycling rates, increased resource efficiency and a more circular economy. One of the proposed changes was 'Consistency in Collections' with all waste collection authorities to collect glass, metal, plastic, and paper & card in kerbside recycling collection services and provide the collection of separate food waste at least once a week. In a recent update from DEFRA, this has now been replaced by 'Simpler Recycling' which plans to ensure that all homes will 'recycle the same materials' and that those materials 'won't need to be separated at home'. This appears to suggest that commingling or twin stream (cardboard and paper in one bin and plastic, glass and cans in another) could be the preferred collection model. However, the industry is still waiting for clarity and confirmation about what the 'Simpler Recycling' rules will entail.

11. In 2021, Enfield commenced a trial at c.50 locations to increase the recycling rate that was being achieved from estates across the borough. Using research carried out by the London Waste and Recycling Board, we implemented several changes to sites that had been found to improve recycling performance, including reverse lidded bins, improved signage and increased engagement and support for residents. These improvements significantly reduced contamination levels at these locations. We now have a proven method for improving recycling performance in flats and estates and are prepared in readiness for the requirements that will be outlined as part of the National Resource and Waste Strategy. Dry recycling and food recycling will need to be offered to all communal properties by 2025 (although this may be delayed) and we will review once government has clarified the requirements and funding available.

12. The household recycling figure (NI 192) for 22/23 is due to be verified by Defra in the coming weeks. However, our own projections estimate that Enfield's performance will be 34.2%* for 22/23. This is an increase of 3.3% on the previous year which was 30.9% - it is expected that Enfield will have the highest recycling rate of the seven North London Waste Authority boroughs

(Enfield, Barnet, Camden, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest). Further, this increase appears to go against the projected trend across all of London with many boroughs predicting a decrease in their recycling rate this year – the NLWA boroughs except for Enfield are estimating an average reduction of c.1.8% this year compared to last year.

***All percentages are awaiting verification from waste data flow, however, are unlikely to change significantly.**

13. As part of the redevelopment of the Edmonton EcoPark, North London Waste Authority is constructing a new public Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) which will be available for residents of all NLWA constituent boroughs. It will be located in Enfield and will be in addition to Barrowell Green so Enfield residents will have a choice of using either site. It will have sufficient space to ensure the core range of items currently collected at NLWA RRCs for reuse and recycling can be taken to the new centre. This includes garden, DIY waste, furniture, mattresses, and electrical appliances. The centre will be under cover and users will not have to carry items up steps to throw them into containers, as the containers will be set below floor level. Construction is nearing completion. As the centre is within the wider North London Heat and Power Project construction site, it is anticipated that there will be a phased opening in 2024.

Mandatory Food Waste Segregation for Businesses:

14. All businesses in England and Wales will be required to comply with the new legislation, with a particular emphasis on retail, hospitality, healthcare, and education sectors due to their higher volume of food waste production. Under the new legal framework, food waste must be separated from other waste streams within any business. However, currently the government is yet to announce a specific timeline for businesses operating in England.

15. The new legislation sets out that:

- All food waste must be separated into a different bin for collection.
- Food cannot be sent to landfill or incineration; it must be sent for recycling. The two methods that can be used are composting or anaerobic digestion.
- Macerators (units which chop and flush food down drains using high volumes of water) or liquidising digesters will be banned completely.
- Drying or dewatering systems will still be permitted as they help reduce the volume of food waste during collection.
- The responsibility for waste recycling fees lies with the business or its staff who generate the waste.

16. We are currently piloting a food waste collection service in some of the schools in the borough – this has been complimented by support from the Waste Services Team who have visited these schools and given presentations to the children on the benefits of recycling. This waste is collected in plastic 120l wheeled bin. Further, we have begun to look at piloting the scheme on a commercial basis, and are currently reviewing which

area/businesses to start this trial as we have to take into account that any contamination in the bins can make the whole load a problem for the disposal site.

17. The commercial waste team has 3 officers that manage an area each in the borough. Their duties consist mainly of building the customer base of commercial waste customers. Tailored quotations are given to prospective customers which include the cost of a recycling collection, the recycling collection is 42% cheaper than a standard refuse collection to encourage businesses to take up this service. We also offer a combination deal too that is competitively priced if the customer takes both a waste and recycling service. When talking to each customer we emphasise the point that their waste costs per year will be cheaper the more they recycle.

18. The Commercial Waste Team have undertaken a recent survey of the Enfield Town area and identified the following providers for the 203 businesses:

- LBE – 71 businesses
- Biffa – 67 businesses
- Others – 65 businesses

19. Biffa are clearly our main competitor in the area as they have a local depot, so their transport costs are kept to a minimum enabling them to price competitively against LBE. Further, many of the businesses in Enfield Town would fall under a national agreement with Biffa - e.g., Costa Coffee have a contract with Biffa as they are able to service all of their sites on a regional or national basis.

Fly Tipping and Enforcement Update:

20. Fly tipping dumped waste (e.g. black bags), and littering adversely affect the quality of the local environment and give a negative perception of the look and feel of the borough. These activities also influence how an area is perceived by residents, workers, visitors, and investors.

21. Local authorities have a duty to clear fly-tipped material from relevant land in their areas and deal with most of the fly-tipping on public land, investigating these and carrying out a range of preventative and enforcement actions.

22. To prevent fly tipping occurring in the first instance we provide information and advice to residents; a free bulky waste collection service; recycling opportunities including the provision of specific recycling centres (e.g. Barrowell Green).

23. Unfortunately, despite these attempts and where fly tipping persists then we will seek to investigate and undertake proportionate enforcement action. This will include the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), Statutory Notices/Warnings and may ultimately result in prosecution through the Courts by virtue of the Single Justice Procedure (SJP). The SJP can be used where an individual has been charged with a minor criminal offence, then the case may be decided by a magistrate without going to court. Hence if an FPNs is

not paid then we may seek to prosecute the offender for the substantive offence (i.e., dropping litter/fly tipping).

24. The Waste Enforcement Team have also started to utilise CCTV to act as a visible deterrent and where possible assist in the investigation of waste offences.
25. The team have also launched the "Can You Help?" social media page. To date we have posted 18 episodes. Whilst this has not yielded any "tip offs" anecdotal feedback from colleagues in Press and New Media, is a shift in comments on social media away from blaming the Council for the fly tipping that is occurring across the Borough, and a recognition that we are taking measures to try and prevent this and will enforce where we have the evidence to do so.
26. Following a tendering process for a new Environmental Enforcement Services Contract, this was awarded to Kingdom Group Limited (Local Authority Support (LAS)). LAS will continue to issue FPNs for dropped litter (Cigarettes) and dumped waste (black bags) and fly tipping.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

27. Enfield's Council Plan 2023-2025 identifies Clean and Green Spaces as one of our priorities and specifically to 'keep our streets and public spaces clean and welcoming' and 'facilitate reuse of materials, reduce waste and increase recycling rates'.
28. Increased recycling performance can contribute positively to our strategic goals of making Enfield a healthier and greener place by providing services that can allow people to take greater responsibility for how they manage their waste and encourage recycling, composting and assist with meeting our ambitions for a clean green environment as stated in our Council Plan.

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Appendices

Background Papers

Departmental reference number, if relevant: