

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014/2015 REPORT NO. 163

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Cabinet 11th February 2015

REPORT OF:

Director – Regeneration & Environment

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Agenda - Part: 1	Item: 11
Subject: Time Banded Collections in Enfield Town	
Wards: Town Key Decision Number – KD 4060	
Cabinet Member consulted:	Cllr Bond

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out proposals to introduce time-banded collections of waste and recycling on a trial basis within Enfield town centre. This will require businesses and residents to present their waste within specified time periods. This is intended to:
- 1.1.1 Keep the Town Centre free from bagged waste at peak times between 9am to 5pm.
- 1.1.2 Reduce the amount of illegally dumped waste, and de-clutter the town centre of bins.
- 1.1.3 Maintain a cleaner, safer environment for people living, working and shopping in our town centre areas.
- 1.2 This approach requires adoption of new regulations to enable appropriate enforcement where necessary to ensure compliance. The scheme will be monitored for 12 months before options for expansion or continuation are considered.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve the London Borough of Enfield Waste Receptacle Regulations 2014 made under sections 20 and 22 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007 (LLA 2007) as attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.2 To approve the Implementation of the time-banded collections as detailed in sections 3.7 to 3.14 and to enforce as set out in 3.15 to 3.16.4.
- 2.3 To delegate authority to review and extend the scheme for further periods or to other areas to Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Managing waste in town centre areas is a common problem for metropolitan councils throughout the country. Lack of suitable waste storage areas, sacks being placed out through the day, associated fly-tipping, torn bags and litter are the key issues being experienced.
- 3.2 Due to the high profile locations the negative impacts upon the street scene are clearly apparent. In Enfield Borough there are a number of areas where these problems exist including, in particular, Enfield town centre.
- 3.3 One key issue contributing to the problem are the varied waste collection times for businesses and residents due to a number of different waste operators servicing the area. This results in bags and bins being presented for collection throughout the week at different times of the day and/or evening. Pictures captured in Appendix 3 were taken between 10am – 2pm on a weekday.
- 3.4 To help maintain local environmental quality the council undertakes additional collections in town centre areas to quickly remove any waste put out on street. Many take advantage of this system, and put their waste on-street rather than using their scheduled collection day. This system is labour intensive, expensive and encourages waste to be put on the streets.
- 3.5 Officers have identified that time banded collections could provide a solution. This is where residents and businesses are required to put out their waste only at clearly defined periods of the day. The waste can then be removed effectively and the area remains clear of waste for the majority of the day.
- 3.6 Time banded collections have been used successfully in other London Boroughs including Lambeth, Newham and Hackney.

Proposal

- 3.7 It is proposed to implement time banded collections in Enfield town centre for a 12 month trial period beginning 1st April 2015 as follows:
 - 3.7.1 Morning collections, one hour window for presentation of waste between 6am to 7am followed by an hour for collection of waste between 7am to 8am.
 - 3.7.2 Evening collections, one hour window for presentation between 5:30pm to 6:30pm followed by an hour for collection of waste between 6:30pm to 7:30pm.
 - 3.7.3 Residential waste presented in sacks will be collected as currently but will be time banded as above for the day of collection and only the Morning window for presentation and collection will apply.

- 3.7.4 These times will apply seven days a week and have been selected to provide minimum disruption during peak traffic and pedestrian flows while meeting needs of residents and business to use the service. A map of the proposed area is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.8 In order to enforce the proposed times it will be necessary to implement new regulations under Sections 20 and 22 of The London Local Authorities Act 2007(LLA 2007). A copy of the proposed regulations are attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.9 To help develop the proposals officers have undertaken wide spread consultation with affected businesses and residents as follows:
- 3.9.1 Officers visited 101 businesses and conducted onsite surveys.
- 3.9.2 295 letters and questionnaires were posted to residents explaining what time-banded collections will mean for them and with contact information.
- 3.9.3 The Town Centre Manager contacted business forums and key business partners in the area.
- 3.9.4 Private waste collectors operating in the area have been contacted with proposed collection times.
- 3.10 The outcome of the business consultation has been very positive:
- 3.10.1 55% of businesses that were visited responded to the survey.
- 3.10.2 Over 90% of businesses that responded agreed that the introduction of time-banded collections would help to improve the street scene.
- 3.10.3 Over 70% of businesses that responded thought the proposed times were convenient and that they could make use of at least one window.
- 3.10.4 Private waste collectors have raised no concerns.
- 3.11 The residents' consultation has been less conclusive with a poor response to the postal questionnaire and those that did respond roughly equally supportive or opposed to the proposals. However the proposal will have negligible effect on residents' waste services as they are already required to place their waste out for collection by 6:30am which is in line with the time bands.

Next Steps

3.12 Following approval of the regulations the implementation is relatively straightforward. At least one month before implementation the following statutory requirements of the LLA 2007 will be undertaken:

3.12.1 Formal notice of the regulations placed in two local newspapers circulating in the affected area

3.12.2 Copies of the regulations will be made available on website and in hard copy at Civic Centre

3.12.3 Signage confirming the new regulation is in force will be placed at appropriate locations in the trial area

3.13 In addition to the statutory requirements the following will also be undertaken ahead of implementation:

3.13.1 Letters will be sent to all affected residents, businesses and private waste collectors confirming the new collection time bands and implementation date.

3.13.2 Briefing and FAQs will be sent to all Members. Additionally a short Explanatory Memorandum in respect of the Regulations will be provided to explain in simple terms the effect of the Regulation and the principal provisions.

3.13.3 Details of the changes including FAQs will be put on the Council's web site.

3.13.4 The Contact Service Centre team will be briefed and updated scripts made available for them in order to answer enquiries from the public.

3.13.5 Trade Unions will be consulted and advised of implementation steps to ensure that they are able to respond to questions from their members.

3.13.6 Managers, Supervisors and frontline operational staff will be briefed to ensure consistent messages are provided in response to queries.

3.14 Following implementation officers will be:

3.14.1 available in the trial area daily to provide assistance, monitor compliance and assess the need for enforcement action for the first two weeks of the new system. The level of on-site monitoring will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary after this.

3.14.2 Analyse queries and complaints to identify trends and issues requiring specific attention.

3.14.3 Monitor impact of the new arrangements on the street scene compared to the baseline data.

3.14.4 Review the outcome of the trial and bring back a report to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Regeneration for consideration.

Enforcement Approach

3.15 To reduce the level of enforcement action required clear, widespread communications will be provided ahead of implementation. This will be backed up with permanent street signage at appropriate locations and officers on site to educate and assist customers immediately following implementation. However as we are seeking to change behaviour that has been in place for some time it is likely that some enforcement action may be required initially.

3.16 If specific problems persist then enforcement officers will:

3.16.1 Investigate to obtain evidence and identify where waste or bins are originating from.

3.16.2 Contact the person or organisation responsible for the problem and issue a warning letter if appropriate.

3.16.3 If further problems occur issue a notice, and or a fixed penalty notice.

3.16.4 As a final stage formal prosecution may be undertaken.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

To continue with the existing arrangements, this will provide no relief to residents and retailers and others who rely upon the Town Centres for trade or leisure activities. This will also fail to improve the quality of the street scene due to problems identified at section 3 above.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The introduction of time banded collections will:

5.1.1 Improve street scene through reducing bags and bins left out for collection during the day in core business hours

5.1.2 Improve traffic flows as collections take place outside peak travel periods

5.1.3 Provide better pedestrian access as stored waste will not block footpaths and pavements

- 5.1.4 Enable enforcement action to ensure that private waste contractors service their customers
- 5.1.5 Remove the hazards associated with waste left on the street, particularly for the partially sighted or persons who are infirm
- 5.1.6 Remove a potential fire hazard from the street
- 5.1.7 Allow use of litter bins and street furniture where waste currently prevents access.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

- 6.1.1 These proposals are to be trialled over 12 months and a review will be undertaken and outcomes reported. It is anticipated that as a result of the proposals that there will be a reduction in the number additional collections undertaken in the Town Centre. During the trial period this will be monitored and any operational efficiency achieved will be reported as an outcome following the review.
- 6.1.2 The enforcement required for the proposals will be managed within existing enforcement and waste resources.
- 6.1.3 The cost of implementing the scheme e.g. notices in newspapers, signage and communications with stakeholders will all be managed within existing waste services resources.

6.2 Legal Implications

- 6.2.1 By virtue of s.20 and s.22 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007 (LLAA 2007) the London Borough of Enfield has the power to make regulations in respect of the collection of household waste and commercial waste where the authority " is *satisfied that doing so would prevent nuisances or detriment to the amenities of their area*". The draft Regulations have been reviewed externally and have been found to be generally compliant with those sections.
- 6.2.2 The justification for taking the decision to make the Regulations is set out in the report and is in accordance with the scheme and objects of the legislation.
- 6.2.3 The LLAA 2007 sets out the minimum provisions for the notification and publication of notices in respect of the making of the regulations and consideration should be given to wider publicity than then statutory minimum.
- 6.2.4 When consulting upon and reviewing the impact of the changes the Council must conscientiously take in to account any representations received. .

6.3 Property Implications

None identified.

7. KEY RISKS

- 7.1 Private contractors do not collect waste in line with the regulations. Consultation with private contractors operating in the town centre has shown that this is unlikely. A dedicated enforcement resource will mitigate potential risks of non-compliance through education and enforcement where necessary.
- 7.2 Residents and businesses unable or unwilling to present waste at the correct times. Widespread consultation shows broad support for the scheme. A dedicated enforcement resource will mitigate potential risks of non-compliance through education and enforcement where necessary.
- 7.3 Residents and businesses avoid the regulations by placing waste on the highway just outside the controlled area. In most cases this will be more inconvenient for customers and so is considered unlikely. If this does occur enforcement resource is available.
- 7.4 High levels of enforcement resource may be required if residents and businesses do not follow the requirements of the regulations. The educational approach with clear communications before and officers on site to support customers immediately after implementation will reduce need for enforcement.

8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

8.1 Fairness for All

- 8.1.1 The collections times chosen are intended to provide good access to waste services for all residents and business within the defined area. Consultation has demonstrated consensus for the proposed times.
- 8.1.2 Having a clear enforcement approach will ensure that the scheme is applied consistently.

8.2 Growth and Sustainability

- 8.2.1 The improvements to street scene will encourage more customers into the area increasing footfall for local businesses.
- 8.2.2 Defined collection times will reduce fly tipping and the need for ad hoc collections improving operational efficiency.

8.3 Strong Communities

- 8.3.1 The scheme will ensure that businesses and residents take responsibility of their waste by presenting waste within the defined time-bands helping to ensure that the town centre is a safe and healthy place to work and live in.

8.3.2 The proposal will create an improved streetscape that is more inviting and may discourage littering, fly tipping and other anti-social behaviour.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

Corporate advice has been sought in regard to equalities and an agreement has been reached that an equalities impact assessment/analysis is neither relevant nor proportionate.

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

None.

11. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

12. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

The reduced number of refuse collection vehicles during the core hours of business will improve air quality by reducing pollution and congestion at busy periods of the day. The reduction of waste on the street overnight may also help to deter scavenging animals.

Background Papers

None.