

REVIEW OF REFUSE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING SERVICE

POSSIBLE COMBINATION SCHEME FOLLOWING CONSULTATION EXERCISE

As the consultation on budget priorities and recycling has progressed, many opinions have been expressed, ideas have been exchanged and the whole process has forced us to think about the various options again and again. I have pondered on it a lot over the last few weeks, as we all have, and have come up with Option G. It isn't any of the six original options but it embodies elements of all of them.

My instinct tells me it will perform well with less cost and disruption than any of the original options and with less public opposition than some of them. I think if we adopt it, or something like it, we can honestly say the consultation has been a meaningful one - that we have listened and changed our position as a result of it. Here it is ...

RESIDUAL WASTE

This is the difficult and least popular bit but it is the engine that drives the rest.

System

- Container - wheeled bin offered in three sizes (240, 190 and 140 ltr) in grey with a chip and A4 sticker panel on lid.
- Frequency - alternate weeks.
- Collecting point - edge of property (curtilage) and returned to the same point!
- Vehicle - bin lift RCV.
- Constraints - no side waste (immediately), lid closed (warnings initially).
- Assistance - where absolutely necessary and following a visit by an officer.
- Replacements - where justified. Opportunity not to offer the 240 ltr later on?
- Liners - householder to buy if required (e.g. about 10p each from Wilko).
- Cleaning - not really needed if refuse is wrapped but private sector will offer it.

Positives

- This is the thing that really drives the recycling rate by restricting the residual waste.
- Many people actually want wheeled bins and many like them once they are used to them.
- Facilitates an edge of property collection for most people including many disabled and elderly people.
- This is the only wheeled bin we are going to ask them to accommodate at this stage.
- Obstruction of pavement may well be better before collection.
- Reduction of litter and scavenging by animals.
- Health & safety at work problems reduced for the contractor.
- Crime reduction - lack of tell tale sacks.
- Does away with the recurring cost of black sacks.
- Releases at least one ordinary dustbin in most households (see later).
- Future proofing - the first step in building a flexible system for the future.

Negatives

- It represents a big change and will be resisted by many initially.
- Handling problems for some especially where there are steep paths or steps.
- Obstruction of pavement following collection especially in terraced areas.
- May need to offer a free collection service for redundant refuse bins for some.

MIXED DRY RECYCLABLES

We keep being asked to build on what we have got. Can it be done?

System

- Container - existing 90 ltr green bin and lid. Note: a small percentage of properties were missed out by SITA when these were originally distributed. We have caught up with most of it but may need to purchase some more to make up any shortfall.
- Liners - green and red liners initially (new artwork) delivered in rolls of 26 every six months with an information sheet round them held with a rubber band. (No packaging, no argument that the info was not delivered). More delivered on request following a visit by an officer. When LCC can accommodate cardboard in the mix, it would be easy to change to all green.
- Frequency - alternate weeks.
- Collecting point - edge of property (curtilage).
- Vehicle - conventional RCV or existing cage tippers or a combination
- Constraints - cursory visual inspection as now. Badly contaminated sacks left at collection point preferably with a sticker.
- Green sacks used in the residual bin would result in the residual bin being left (i.e. not a free source of liners for the wheeled bin).
- Assistance - where absolutely necessary and following a visit by an officer.
- Replacements - where justified, green bin could be replaced, as at present.
- Cleaning - not applicable (always used with green liner).

Positives

- This provides householders with about 200 ltrs of storage for mixed dry recyclables per two weeks.
- People are used to this system. Their only problem with it seems to be getting hold of enough liners - otherwise they seem to like it.
- Bulk delivery of sacks and edge of property collection should make the cost much lower than the existing service.
- Avoids the criticism of wasting 60,000 odd perfectly good green bins before they are life expired - best value.
- Crime reduction - lack of fortnightly tell tale sacks when delivered in bulk.
- Most households can use their old residual dustbin as a second external store for recyclables if they want to.
- If we initially delivered 13 green plus 13 red sacks per 26 weeks, we could introduce this scheme as early as April 2004 and get people used to it.
- When people are used to wheeled bins for residual, we could if we wanted change to a wheeled bin system for recyclables perhaps linked to vehicle or old green bin life expiry - again best value

Negatives

- It may not be quite as easy to fill the sacks or move them to the collection point as it would for a wheeled bin.
- Handling problems for some especially where there are steep paths or steps.
- Obstruction of pavement before collection.
- Litter not improved (scavenging by animals is not such a problem with recyclables).
- Health & safety at work problems not reduced so much for the contractor.
- Recurring cost of green and red sacks. GLASS BOTTLES & JARS AND TEXTILE COLLECTION

This is essentially part of the DEFRA bid.

System

- Container - 55 ltr blue plastic box with lid and drain holes in base. Lid is for safety where there are children and may help external storage. A4 sticker panel on lid would be useful.
- Liners - householders to present textiles and shoes wrapped in a carrier bag.
- Frequency - alternate weeks (same week as recyclables).

- Collecting point - edge of property (curtilage).
- Vehicle - 7.5 tonne tipper with compartmented body for two or three glass colours and textiles. Colour separation and separate weighing gives added value to glass. A dry container could be placed at e.g. Whetstone for Charnwood textiles.
- Constraints - cursory visual inspection. Any contaminants possibly including tops to be left in the box. This should quickly educate householders into contaminants and yield good quality.
- Assistance - where absolutely necessary and following a visit by an officer.
- Replacements - where justified but "toy box syndrome" would have to be avoided..
- Cleaning - householder's responsibility and easy to do.

Positives

- A lot of people have requested a glass collection and we know we can increase glass weight significantly if we provide it.
- This is an opt in system on collection day. Some people may not want it at all although they should be made to opt out initially. As it is edge of property, the service should be relatively cost effective.
- The existing textile collection service would be no longer needed.
- The bottle banks, which are not performing well, especially those in small settlements could be phased out and we could concentrate on the high performers.

Negatives

- Handling problems for some especially where there are steep paths or steps.
- Some risk of broken glass at kerbside.

GARDEN WASTE

This is a service that not every household wants or needs and has a real value to those that want it. We can and should charge for it.

System

- Container - wheeled bin offered in more than one size in brown with a chip and A4 sticker panel on lid.
- Payment - annual lease fee.
- For those who do not want a wheeled bin, pre-paid sacks could still be offered with a slave bin.
- Frequency - alternate weeks in growing season, perhaps at a lower rate in winter?
- Collecting point - edge of property (curtilage) and returned to the same point!
- Vehicle - bin lift RCV.
- Constraints - no side waste (immediately), lid closed (warnings initially).
- Assistance - where absolutely necessary and following a visit by an officer.
- Replacements - where justified.
- Liners - not applicable and not allowed.
- Cleaning - householder's responsibility.

Positives

- This is an attractive service to many.
- It is targeted at those who really value it enough to pay a small fee.
- It does not create a new waste stream to the same extent as a free service would.
- This is an opt in system on collection day. As it is edge of property, the service should be relatively cost effective.
- Facilitates an edge of property collection for most people including many disabled and elderly people.
- Health & safety at work problems reduced for the contractor
- Does away with most of the recurring cost of brown sacks.
- Doesn't undermine home composting - complements it.
- Future proofing - builds in flexibility for the future.

Negatives

- Handling problems for some especially where there are steep paths or steps.
- Obstruction of pavement following collection especially in terraced areas.
- May divert compostables to some extent from CA sites.