



One Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12 June 2012

From the Director of Environment
and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected:
ALL

Waste Collection

1.0 Summary

This report provides a progress update with respect to the One Council Waste and Street Cleansing Review, in particular the performance of the waste collection and street cleansing services that were changed as part of that project.

2.0 Recommendations

That the contents of this report are noted.

3.0 Detail

This One Council project drew efficiency savings from the council's waste operations by reducing the street cleansing contract cost and by implementing a revised waste strategy for Brent. The main objectives of that strategy were to minimise waste production and to introduce new methods of collection to divert more waste from landfill. Increasing the recycling rate to 60% is a key objective for the council.

The efficiency target originally allocated to the project was to deliver £1.2m savings, notionally split £500k (waste collection and disposal) and £700k (Street cleansing). It was reviewed in 2011/12 and increased to £1.595m

4.0 Work Undertaken

4.1 Waste

A draft household waste collection strategy (2010-14) was produced between October 2009 and May 2010, followed by consultation with residents during the summer 2010. The strategy was adopted by the Executive on 13 December 2010. It recommended replacing the existing waste collection service with a new service, in order to:

- deliver the savings target
- increase diversion from landfill
- increase recycling and composting rates

- reduce the carbon impact of waste management operations

A detailed implementation plan was produced in January 2011 and the new waste collection service was introduced in October 2011.

4.2 Street cleansing

Service reductions were negotiated with the contractor and then agreed by the Executive on 13 December 2010. Changes introduced in March 2011 included:

- reduced frequency of sweeping from 3 to 2 weekly in zone 5
- rebalanced afternoon shift
- integration of bulky waste collections with the cleansing service.

In order to deliver the increased savings target in 2011, further service reductions were implemented in October:

- Reduced frequency of sweeping from 2 to 1 weekly in zone 5
- Reduced frequency of sweeping from 3 times per day to twice in zone 2
- Reduced frequency of sweeping in industrial areas from 7 to 2 weekly
- Removal of weekend afternoon shift
- Reduced weekday morning mechanical sweeping
- Reduced weekend morning cleansing.

5.0 Performance

Waste

- The total waste treatment cost was reduced by £700k in 2011/12
- The street cleansing cost was reduced by £2m

In terms of recycling, the 6 month effect from October 2011/12 was an increase in the overall rate from 29% to 41% a 12 point increase on the previous year. This incorporates:

- A 14% reduction in total waste
- A 28% reduction in household waste landfilled
- A 36% increase in waste recycled
- A 6% increase in waste composted.

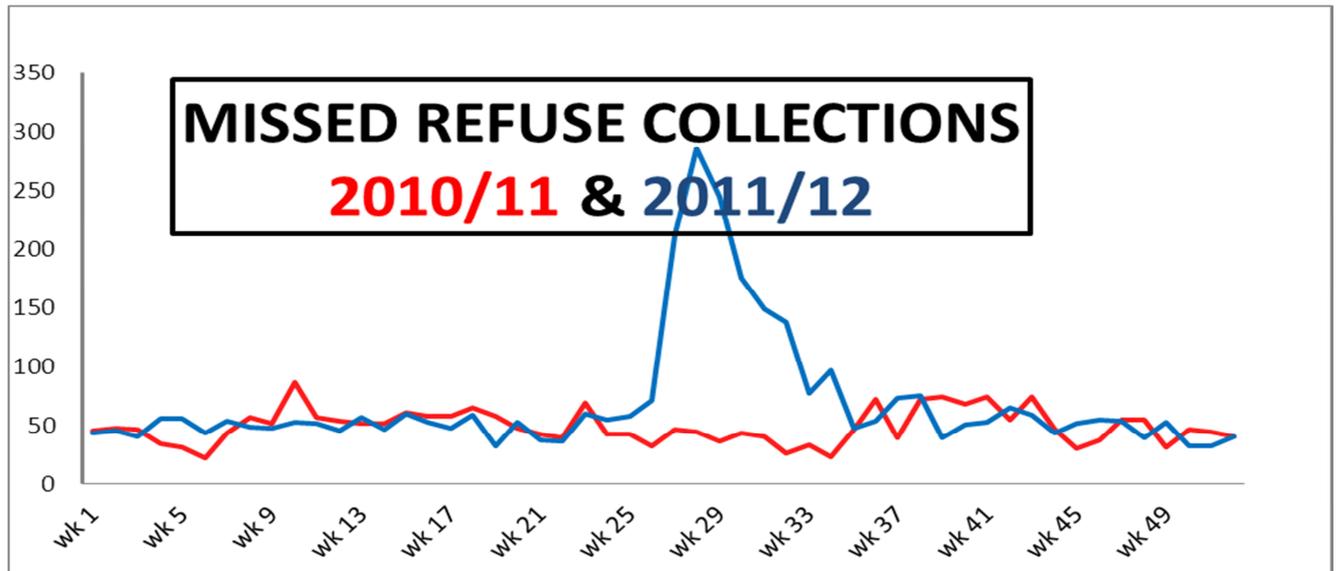
The full year effect (incorporating the 6 months prior to October) gave a recycling rate of 37%, a 6 point increase on the previous year.

6 month		Total Waste	Landfill	Recycling	Composting	Rate
	From October 2011/12	44406	26355	11514	6537	41
	From October 2010/11	51358	36715	8465	6178	29
	Diff	-6953	-10360	3048	359	12
	% Change	-14	-28	36	6	
12 month		Total Waste	Landfill	Recycling	Composting	Rate

From April 2011/12	98573	62269	20538	15766	37
From April 2010/11	103435	71071	17065	15299	31
Diff	-4863	-8803	3473	467	6
% Change	-5	-12	20	3	

Missed Collections

Missed collections peaked during the implementation phase but returned to normal levels within two months.



Street Cleansing

The cleansing reductions led to deterioration in some areas.

Compared to 2010/11:

- The number of streets showing a less than acceptable level of litter increased by 5 percentage points.
- The number of streets showing a less than acceptable level of detritus increased by 6 percentage points.

		Tranche 1	Tranche 2	Tranche 3	Year	Increase
2010/11	Litter	7	11	12	10	
	Detritus	17	9	8	11	
2011/12	Litter	12	11	22	15	5
	Detritus	21	13	18	17	6

6.0 Challenges

It is clear that, despite good performance in terms of waste collection, our efforts must now focus on ensuring the recycling and composting rate continues to increase, particularly as future years' savings will be delivered through avoided disposal costs.

This will be achieved through further development of our services and by ensuring our officers properly engage with residents to resolve problems such as side waste, non-participation and contaminated bins.

The consequence of less frequent cleansing in some areas is that streets are less tidy. Officers have embarked on a programme of engagement with councillors and community groups to understand local concerns and to develop solutions.

7.0 Summary

The project has drawn efficiency savings from the council's waste operations by reducing the street cleansing contract cost and by successfully implementing a revised waste strategy for Brent.

The main objectives were to minimise waste production and to introduce new methods of collection to divert more waste from landfill.

At March 2012, this work had served to ensure around 41% of all waste is either recycled or composted. .

8.0 Next Steps

Officers are confident of moving the rate beyond 45% this year. The strategy sets a clear ambition to recycle 50% by 2015, with the Administration's goal even more ambitious, seeking to reach 60% by 2014

Officers now need a formal and structured means of extending this work so these ambitions can be realised both in the short and medium term. This is best done in tandem with the work to procure a new waste contract for 2014 because that contract represents the best means of sustaining the change that will be required.

Work to revise the waste strategy and to improve existing waste services is now underway, with progress expected throughout 2012/13.

The programme in order of priority (uplift of in brackets) is as follows:

Potential uplift to 52.5%

High – High Output (+8 percentage points)

1. Improve recycling of collected bulky waste.
2. Maximise output from food waste collections by providing caddy liners/replacement caddies.
3. Bid for funding to introduce food waste collections at flats
4. Replace/remove excess landfill bins.
5. Introduce alternate weekly collections at appropriate flats.
6. Extend recycling provision at flats above shops.
7. Review and improve resident engagement programme.
8. Advertise availability of additional blue-topped bins.
9. Comprehensive communications plan for 2012/13, with more frequent re-issue of collection calendar and service information.

Medium – High Input, Less Output (+3 percentage points)

10. Review and improve bring bank network.
11. Identify options for recycling street cleansing waste.

12. Remove trade waste from street cleansing waste.
13. Install in-cab devices to report non-collection issues.
14. Re-use shops / third sector collections

Low – Low Output (+0.5 percentage points)

15. Recycle waste collected at events.
16. Enhanced waste reduction initiatives – real nappies, junk mail, home composting.
17. Investigate a borough-wide recycling incentive scheme.
18. Collect food waste from schools.
19. Take advantage of pan-London textile framework.
20. Dedicated Olympic recycling programme for the games period in August.
21. Provide collection points for small electronic equipment.
22. Improve collection arrangements and range of materials at Re-use and Recycling centre.

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