

Report of	Assistant Director Environment	Author	Richard Block ☎ 286825
Title	Update on Implementation of Plastic Recycling Collections to Flats		
Wards affected	All wards		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update to the Panel on the implementation plan to introduce plastic recycling collections to flats.

2. Action Required

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Panel should:

- Consider whether action taken against the implementation plan will achieve the previous Cabinet decision to where feasible, provide residents of flats with collections of plastic recycling.

3. Reason for Scrutiny

- 3.1 To ensure all residents can recycle as much material as possible regardless of where they live to reduce the amount of residual waste produced in the Borough.

4. Background Information

Introduction

- 4.1 The Panel received a report in July 2018 detailing the plan to introduce plastic recycling collections to flats. This report provides a further update on progress against the implementation plan.

Update on Progress

- 4.2 The implementation plan previously considered by the Panel is shown below:

Task	Completion date
Letter sent to all Management Companies and Registered Social Landlords communicating Cabinet decision and asking for bin stores to be surveyed.	26/6/2018
Communal storage bin procurement.	29/6/2018
Management Companies/Registered Social Landlords to survey bin stores, provide information on bin requirements and provide postal addresses for all flats under their management.	17/7/2018
Compare information to current flat information held, survey any outstanding blocks and review those that don't have sufficient storage space.	3/8/2018
Develop collection routes.	24/8/2018
Develop dedicated web page and marketing material with information on new service.	31/8/2018
Letter and targeted communications to all residents in blocks that are going to receive new service.	10/9/2018
Bins delivered to communal bin stores	17/9/2018
First collections made	W/C 24/9/2018

- 4.3 Following the letter sent to Management Companies and Registered Social Landlords, responses from 25 out of the 35 have been received. Those that have not responded have been sent follow up letters and will be contacted by telephone if they still do not respond. 23 of these have responded to say they would be able to accommodate communal plastic recycling storage bins in the developments they manage.
- 4.4 From the responses that have been received so far, 4700 flats can be provided with the new plastic recycling service. Staff from the Waste Service have been surveying bin stores for remaining developments to assess whether they can accommodate bins and are currently collating this information to create routes. As the Panel identified previously these should reflect existing recycling collection routes.
- 4.5 Efforts will be initially focussed on implementing the service to developments which have enough space in communal bin areas and where the Managing Agent/Registered Social Landlord is willing to accommodate bins. From the responses received this result in most residents of flats receiving the service. The remaining developments will be looked at again once the service has been launched.

- 4.6 Communal plastic storage bins have now been purchased and are being stored at the Shrub End Waste Depot ready to be delivered in September. Following feedback from Managing Agents, Registered Social Landlords and the Scrutiny Panel raising concerns about the fact Managing Agents and Registered Social Landlords would be expected to pay for bins to launch the service, the Council will now meet this one-off cost which is expected to be £13,000. This cost will be met from an underspend against the Capital Budget for introducing changes to the Waste Service in June 2017.
- 4.7 When the Scrutiny Panel considered the Implementation Plan in July, the question was raised as to whether residents of flats would receive clear sacks to store plastic recycling. These will be delivered to communal bin stores at the same time the communal plastic storage bin is delivered. Residents will be informed of this in the targeted letter which will be sent shortly before delivery of the bins.
- 4.8 Preparations to communicate the new service are progressing well. The letter referred to in 4.7 has been drafted. This explains how the service works, explains what plastic cannot be recycled and notifies them that clear sacks will be available for them to collect from the communal bin store. An e-poster and webpage has also been developed.

5. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 5.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken prior to the changes to the Refuse and Recycling Collection Service in June 2017 and has been reviewed in light of the new service.

6. Strategic Plan References

- 6.1 Further increasing the amount of waste that is recycled will contribute to the responsibility theme of the [Strategic Plan 2018-21](#) in that it will encourage recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 The initial consultation with Management Companies of flats and Registered Social Landlords has demonstrated that continuing consultation is essential to effectively implement the new service. A further update letter was sent to them on 9 August to explain that the Council will now be meeting the cost of bins.

8. Publicity Considerations

- 8.1 It will be essential to publicise any additional recycling collection services provided to flats so that residents know what material to recycle and how to store this whilst awaiting collection. Paragraph 4.8 above provides an update on this.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1 The decision to fund the initial cost of plastic storage bins is an additional cost not considered when the decision to implement the service was originally taken. This is estimated to be £13,000. The financial implications are however mitigated by the fact that a Capital Budget for implementing changes to the

Waste Service in June 2017 was not all spent so can be used to fund these bins.

10. Community Safety Implications

10.1 There are no implications.

11. Health and Safety Implications

11.1 There are no health and safety implications, over and above the existing implications for providing the refuse and recycling collection service to flats which are well managed through an established health and safety management system.

12. Risk Management Implications

12.1 There is a risk that not all Management Companies or Registered Social Landlords will agree to accommodate plastic storage bins in communal bin stores they manage. The responses received so far indicate the majority will accommodate bins.

12.2 As detailed previously, efforts will be initially focussed on implementing the service to developments which have enough space in communal bin areas and where the Managing Agent/Registered Social Landlord is willing to accommodate bins to ensure the service is launched to as many residents as soon as possible. The remaining developments will be looked at again once the service has been launched.