

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**NEIGHBOURHOOD, ENVIRONMENT AND
COMMUNITIES CABINET MEMBER**

RECYCLING FOR 'HARD TO REACH' PROPERTIES

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update members on the outcome of the consultation exercise involving residents on 'Round 18' and to consider a range of options for delivering recycling collections to those properties concerned.
- 1.2 The key points in this report are:
- Due to difficulties experienced with access and the design of many of the properties involved, the introduction of kerbside recycling schemes into 'Round 18' has been delayed.
 - A broad consultation exercise has been undertaken and a questionnaire issued to all 3180 affected properties.
 - Responses received indicate a high level of awareness of the recycling schemes operating elsewhere within North Lincolnshire but relatively low levels of practical involvement currently.
 - Support for the possible introduction of schemes is mixed.
 - A number of options exist for the design of recycling schemes. These are considered in detail.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The households that currently comprise 'Round 18' are defined as 'hard to reach' by virtue of the limited access arrangements and/or their remote location. A total of 3180 individual properties are affected, mainly in the Crosby area of Scunthorpe.
- 2.2 The kerbside 'blue and green box' recycling scheme has previously been expanded into this area. Since its introduction, participation in the scheme has remained low relative to all other areas. Where boxes are collected, these are serviced from both the front and rear of premises. Wheeled bins for general waste are serviced from the rear of premises only i.e. 'tenfoots'.

- 2.3 Due to the unique features of this area of North Lincolnshire, a consultation event was undertaken in order to better understand the practical problems likely to be encountered, before the delivery of waste and recycling services commenced.
- 2.4 Consultation on the proposals to expand kerbside recycling to Round 18 began with a number of the residents of the properties affected involved in a series of focus groups convened to discuss the content of the draft municipal waste management strategy. Further consultation then took place over a 3 month period, this included:
- Meetings with identified community groups
 - Briefing of ward members
 - Use of 'doorsteppers'
 - A blanket communication to all households

The communication to all households comprised a letter and questionnaire. These are appended to this report. The responses received are also detailed.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Three possible options for collecting recyclable material from 'hard to reach' premises are under consideration, these are:

Option1 – Provide the same service as that delivered throughout most of North Lincolnshire i.e. three wheeled bins (green, brown, red) plus two boxes.

Option 2 - Provide a revised service e.g. two wheeled bins (green and red or green and brown) only plus two boxes.

Option 3 – A combination of Options 1 and 2. This would involve the provision of two wheeled bins (green, red) to all properties plus a brown wheeled bin or home composter if requested.

Each of the above options assumes the re-issue of blue and green boxes to all properties where required. Collections of residual waste (green bin) would also be completed on an alternate weekly basis. Specific reference was made to this in the covering letter sent to all households.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Option 1 – This would create logistical problems in so far as an additional collection vehicle and crew will be required to deliver multiple collections over a two weekly cycle. Currently, the council operates a single 'limited access' collection vehicle, which is deployed solely in this area. The multiple containers may also create storage problems for those premises with minimal space. Additional collections of containers from ten foots, will also create a further, temporary, obstruction of these highways.

- 4.2 Option 2 – A two bin system is the simplest arrangement to manage logistically and could be operated on an alternate weekly basis using the existing vehicle and crew. The choice of the second bin i.e. red or brown would disadvantage a proportion of residents e.g. those households with gardens.
- 4.3 Option 3 – A hybrid of Options 1 and 2 above, this aims to broadly meet all requirements by equipping those households who ‘opt in’ with a brown bin in addition to the green and red bins that would be supplied to all properties. This ‘tailored solution’ to meeting the recycling needs of individual households is consistent with the approach now adopted elsewhere within North Lincolnshire. Limited numbers of brown bins issued only to those households opting in to the scheme could be serviced by existing equipment with some minor adjustment to other collection rounds.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 Funds have previously been identified within the Capital Programme to equip the 3180 homes of Round 18 with a second wheeled bin. To equip all properties with a third wheeled bin would cost a further £62000. An additional collection vehicle and crew at a revenue cost of £80,000 per annum to operate would also be required if Option 1 was chosen. The cost of implementing Options 2 or 3 could be contained within existing capital and revenue budgets.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 There is a statutory requirement to collect a minimum of two recyclable materials from the kerbside. This is met by the operation of the blue and green box scheme.
- 6.2 The achievement, within Round 18, of a recycling rate equivalent to that currently achieved elsewhere within North Lincolnshire would divert approximately 1300 tonnes of material away from landfill. This would further assist the Council in meeting its agreed targets for recycling and landfill allowance limits.
- 6.3 The area of North Lincolnshire that comprises ‘Round 18’ is the most ethnically diverse and has a large transitory population living in rented accommodation. This presents challenges for communicating messages and ensuring active and sustained participation. Meetings have been held with a number of representative bodies to identify what, if any, service adjustments may be required.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 An analysis of the responses received to the questionnaire has raised a number of issues:

- Almost half of all respondents state they do not have a blue or green box, this despite the delivery of these to all households in 2006.
- Nearly all those who have boxes state they use them. This is contrary to the evidence of the collection contractor who routinely conducts a census of boxes presented for service.
- A high proportion (75.2%) of those responding would like to receive separate collections of plastic and cardboard.
- Two thirds of respondents have a garden but only 69% of these householders want a separate collection of greenwaste. In total less than half of all respondents want a brown bin.
- There is little enthusiasm for buying a home composter.

7.2 In earlier discussions with residents and community leaders, concerns have been expressed about the ability of some householders to effectively store all the required containers on their premises and the possible obstruction of 'tenfoots' these would cause on collection days.

7.3 Members of the Community Groups and other stakeholders e.g. North Lincolnshire Homes, Housing Associations, etc. active in the area have all offered to provide liaison with the Community of Crosby and to assist residents in the practical implementation and operation of the recycling schemes.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member agrees the implementation of a recycling scheme from those options detailed above.

8.2 Subject to the option chosen, the time taken to procure bins and vehicles and the identification of adequate additional resources, if required, implementation of a scheme is progressed as soon as possible.

SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD & ENVIRONMENT

The Angel
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Author: Kevin Booth
Date: 27 November 2008

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report
Responses to householder survey - October/November 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

Since March 2006, North Lincolnshire Council has operated alternate weekly collections of recyclable materials and general waste in many locations across the area.

Due to the design of some homes and their restricted access arrangements, a number of other properties, including yours, have so far been excluded from the scheme. The council is keen to address this issue and is currently considering a variety of options for improving recycling services in your area.

The options include the introduction of a scheme for the separate collection of plastics and cardboard (burgundy bin) and/or green waste (brown bin). This will be in addition to the kerbside blue & green box scheme already operating in the area. Any scheme introduced would be on an alternate weekly basis – for example in week one we would collect your general waste and in week two your recyclable waste.

However, before deciding on precisely how the scheme will be expanded, it is essential that the council give consideration to the views of residents in the areas concerned.

Over the next few weeks canvassers employed by the council will be in your area asking for your views on recycling and the schemes proposed. They will also be able to offer tips and advice on the existing kerbside box recycling scheme.

In addition, we have enclosed a brief questionnaire about the scheme. I hope you can spare the time to complete the form that should be returned no later than Friday November 14th in the enclosed pre paid envelope.

You can also send your comments to Waste Management, Neighbourhood and Environmental Services, Cottage Beck Road, Scunthorpe, DN16 1TS or email wastemanagement@nothlincs.gov.uk

The recycling schemes in North Lincolnshire have contributed significantly to the success of the council's overall recycling achievements – with a 43 per cent recycling rate in 2007. This success can only continue to be achieved with your support.

Yours faithfully

Kevin Booth
Head of Waste Management

RECYCLING QUESTIONNAIRE/RESPONSES

1. Are you aware of the various recycling schemes currently operating in North Lincolnshire?

Yes 433 (87.3%)	No 56 (11.3%)	Don't know 7 (1.4%)
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2. Do you have a blue box for recycling paper?

Yes 287 (57.9%)	No 209 (42.1%)	Don't know 0 (0%)
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3. Do you use the blue box for recycling?

Yes 266 (53.6%)	No 170 (34.3%)	Don't know 60 (12.0%)
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4. Do you have a green box for recycling glass and cans?

Yes 280 (56.4%)	No 213 (42.9%)	Don't know 3 (0.6%)
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5. Do you use the green box for recycling?

Yes 253 (51.9%)	No 175 (12.1%)	Don't know 59 (12.1%)
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6. Do you have a Salvation Army sack for recycling textiles and clothes?

Yes 80 (16.1%)	No 415 (83.7%)	Don't know 1 (0.2%)
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7. Do you use the sack?

Yes 76 (15.3%)	No 272 (54.8%)	Don't know 148 (29.8%)
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8. Would you like to be able to recycle your plastics and cardboard?

Yes 373 (75.2%)	No 101 (20.4%)	Don't know 22 (4.4%)
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9. Do you have a garden?

Yes 319 (64.3%)	No 168 (33.9%)	Don't know 9 (1.8%)
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10. Would you be interested in a wheeled bin to collect garden and uncooked fruit and vegetable waste?

Yes 223 (45.0%)	No 237 (47.8%)	Don't know 36 (7.3%)
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11. Do you have a home composter?

Yes 57 (11.5%) No 436 (87.9%) Don't know 3 (0.6%)

12. Do you use your home composter?

Yes 56 (11.3%) No 1 (0.2%) Don't know 439 (88.5%)

13. Would you be interested in buying a home composter?

Yes 35 (7.1%) No 455 (91.7%) Don't know 6 (1.2%)

Total Respondents = 496

Total Issued = 3180

Response Rate 15.6%