

The future structure of refuse and recycling collections

Annexe 2 – summary of current arrangements

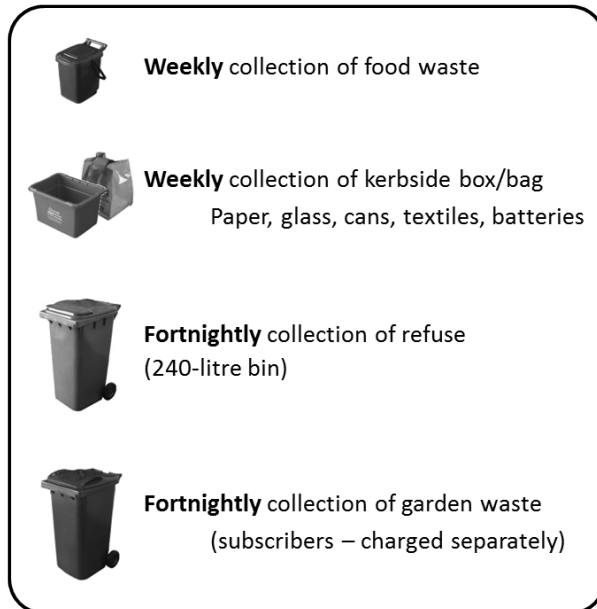
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1. Current collections – houses, flats and businesses


1.1 The Council's current refuse and recycling services feature both weekly and fortnightly collections, and both kerbside-sort and co-mingled recycling. **Houses** are offered:


Week 1:



 **Weekly** collection of food waste

 **Weekly** collection of kerbside box/bag
Paper, glass, cans, textiles, batteries

 **Fortnightly** collection of refuse
(240-litre bin)

 **Fortnightly** collection of garden waste
(subscribers – charged separately)

Week 2:



 **Weekly** collection of food waste

 **Weekly** collection of kerbside box/bag
Paper, glass, cans, textiles, batteries

 **Fortnightly** collection of black bin
(180-litre bin)
Cardboard, cartons & plastics

 **Weekly** collection of nappies/incontinence
(subscribers – free service)

1.2 This service features:

- A combination of both weekly and fortnightly collections.
- A combination of both kerbside-sort (box/bag) and co-mingled (black recycling bin) collections.
- A variety of different bin sizes. Green refuse bins are 'full-size' 240-litre bins, while black recycling bins are 'three-quarter size' 180-litre bins.
- Because of the fortnightly refuse collection, a separate nappies and incontinence waste service collects those bins weekly.

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1.3 **Flats** receive communal services. Originally based on our core kerbside-sort services (separate bins for paper, glass and cans), services vary from location to location due to space restrictions at flats. However, last year we converted many flats to a new, streamlined service designed to boost recycling and create much more consistent services. For example:



1.4 It should be noted that, often, flats receive a weekly refuse service, rather than fortnightly as at houses, due to space restrictions for bins.

1.5 **Businesses** are also offered this same ‘streamlined’ service structure, again often with weekly collections due to space restrictions (no garden waste option, for which there has always been negligible business demand):



1.6 Because of the predominance of weekly refuse collections in flats and businesses, separate vehicles are required for their collection.

2. Current collections – vehicles and staff

2.1 The current services require a total of 38 drivers and operatives.

2.2 Fifteen heavy 'LGV' refuse and recycling vehicles are required. Within this, three distinct vehicle types are required to support the variety of services currently offered:



1. The '**Kerbsider**': equipped with a unique, specially-designed body for the hand-sorting at the kerbside of paper, glass, cans and textiles, which can then be tipped separately



2. The '**Pod**': equipped with a specially-designed, sealed front compartment that can be used to safely and cleanly collect food waste for recycling

The rear compartment is like a standard dustcart, but smaller because of the space used by the food pod. It therefore can carry less (half as much refuse), so is used for lower-weight, compressible co-mingled recycling or garden waste



3. Standard **dustcarts**: fortnightly refuse collections still produce the largest daily loads collected. These are too big for the rear compartment of a 'Pod'. Therefore, standard dustcarts, with a single, large load compartment, must be used

2.3 It may be noted that:

- While the majority of refuse collections are made fortnightly, many refuse collections from flats, businesses and the nappy service must still be made weekly. To do this we have to employ separate, dedicated vehicles and crews to make these 'off-week' refuse collections.
- Each of the three vehicle types is relatively specialised. They are not well-adapted to supporting each other in case of vehicle breakdowns. Therefore, each vehicle type is supported by a spare vehicle of the same type in order to maintain service continuity.
- Overall, these factors lead to a relatively complex mix of vehicles for such a small fleet, requiring considerable management and support.