

Optimising Bring Site Provision

Optimising bring site provision involves not only a thorough review of the performance and location of current sites but also involves looking at bring sites within the wider context of the recycling services that residents receive. By considering bring sites within this context, Officers can fully understand the contribution bring recycling makes to overall recycling performance.

Improve sites?

Kerbside
changes?

Close or Open
new site(s)?

Relocate sites?

Work with third
parties to
reduce costs?

Add/ reduce
number of
materials?

Budgets?

Current
performance?

Future Goals?

There are several potential reasons to review bring site provision. These include:

- changes that are planned, or have recently been made, to other waste services;
- outcomes from an assessment of performance at existing bring sites;
- financial constraints; and
- a desire to increase working with third parties.

Here are some of the factors to consider when reviewing bring site provision in your area.

Performance – to inform decisions about adding new sites, or removing or improving existing sites, authorities should consider performance in terms of the tonnage of material collected, frequency of collections and the costs of operating the site. In addition, analysing data on emptying frequency and fill levels can inform decisions about what materials to collect and how many containers are required per material at each site. It is also important to look at any issues at the site, such as fly-tipping and vandalism and the number of complaints received.

Working with third parties – working with community organisations and retailers may be integral to the Council’s policies and so should be part of any review of bring site provision. A cost/benefit analysis of different working arrangements should be carried out to consider factors such as servicing of sites and potential revenue share from the sale of materials. The advantages and potential issues of working with other third parties, over existing in-house or contractual arrangements, should also be considered.

One aspect of optimising services may involve locating (more) sites on private land. Where this happens, working arrangements with the landowner need to be clearly defined so that liabilities such as fly-tipping and site cleaning are understood by all parties; the local authority, land owner, those undertaking site cleaning and those emptying containers.

Service changes – when authorities make changes to other recycling services – in particular to kerbside collection services – this can have a significant impact on bring site performance. Analysing any change in performance, will help inform decisions about the number of bring sites required, where they should be located and what materials should be collected.

Site design – the performance of any bring site is affected by its design, the type and number of containers provided and the layout. Performance is likely to improve if the site is easy to use by householders, and if it appears clean and attractive. When reviewing site provision, therefore, an important first step is to evaluate the potential impact of improving the design or layout of existing sites. Consider the costs and benefits of the required investment to improve site design/infrastructure and the expected increases in performance and income from the sale of materials as a result of these changes.

Contracts – if bring site services are contracted out, then any review on the number of containers/sites is best carried out in conjunction with, or at least with the knowledge of, the contractor. They will have useful information and insights to contribute. Changes to the number of sites are likely to have financial implications under the contract. There will be additional costs for the provision and servicing of additional containers/sites and, depending on how the contract was set up, potentially, penalties if sites are removed. If, following a review, you propose to add more containers to some sites or increase frequency of servicing, while reducing frequency at other sites, it may be possible to renegotiate aspects of the contract so that overall costs remain similar.