

Cross-service impacts

Changes to any part of your authority's recycling service can affect other services. For example, expanding the range of materials collected at the kerbside may lead to a change in bring site performance; removing certain containers at an HWRC could increase the reliance on bring sites for that material. Therefore, it is good practice to review the performance of bring site services before, during and after changes to other waste services have been made, to identify new opportunities for efficiencies in service provision, such as reducing the frequency of servicing or number of sites or changing the materials collected.

Changes to kerbside services, bring recycling sites and HWRCs are likely to have an impact on each other.



Issues to consider

Contracts

- When developing procurement strategies, consider whether it would be beneficial from a cost and operational perspective to include bring services with other services, such as kerbside collections and/ or street cleaning.
- If your authority wants to award a contract for the bring service as a whole, or with the kerbside service, consider how sub-contracting to smaller local companies or to third sector groups in the area could be encouraged within the tendering process.
- If you do make changes to your bring service, these will have to be negotiated with the service provider.

Operational

One potential area for operational efficiencies is around use of collection vehicles. Specialist vehicles for servicing bring sites can be expensive to buy. When the vehicles are off the road due to breakdown or for servicing, further costs can be incurred for vehicle hire.

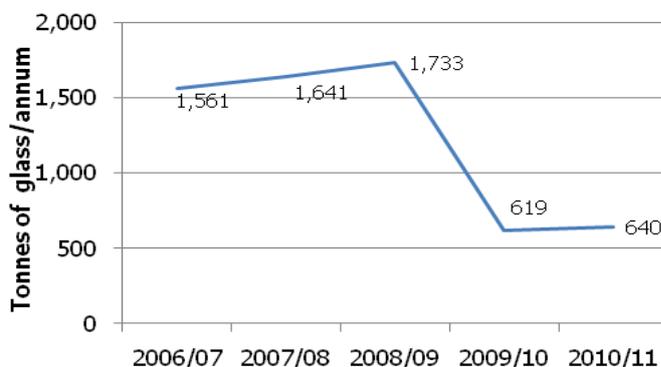


Example of bring site container which can be emptied by most standard refuse collection vehicles

- Can vehicles used for kerbside collections or taking waste from HWRCs also be used to service containers at bring sites? This can reduce the need to acquire specialist vehicles and support more cost-effective collections, as bring site containers can be emptied as part of collection rounds. However, it may mean that new containers will have to be purchased to allow servicing by kerbside collection vehicles. Also, there may be quality concerns, particularly if material is collected separately at the bring site but the kerbside collection is co-mingled.
- If a local authority is servicing sites in house, and uses specialist vehicles to empty containers, this can be inefficient if the vehicles are unused for long periods of time. Is there potential to share specialist vehicles with other authorities?
- Consider whether the street cleaning service can support or deliver bring site cleaning as part of their street cleaning activities.

Case Study: Luton experienced a 50% reduction in the quantity of glass collected at its bring sites, following the introduction of glass in kerbside collections. This prompted the council to review its bring site network and to reduce the number of bring sites where glass is collected. It continues to conduct regular performance reviews of the remaining sites to assess and address any decrease in tonnage performance at these sites.

Regular reviews of data can help to highlight changing performance at bring sites and identify areas to focus on. Data source: Luton Borough Council.



Performance

- Bring sites and kerbside collections can support and complement one another. If the range of material collected at the kerbside, or frequency of collection increases, consider whether there are opportunities to collect new materials at bring sites – for example textiles, books,

media, WEEE. An analysis of residual waste composition can highlight material which is currently in the residual stream but could be suitable for targeting at bring sites. Alternatively, consider consulting with residents to gauge their thoughts on provision of bring sites – see *Communicating bring site recycling services* for more information.

Look to make branding of bring site containers and site signage consistent with branding used at HWRCs and on kerbside containers. For example, colour coding for different materials can help avoid confusion and contamination issues with people putting material in the wrong container. Refer to Recycle Now for further guidance on the logos and colours given to each material stream.

http://www.recyclenowpartners.org.uk/local_authorities/guidelines.html

- Particular care should be taken when communicating differences in services, such as where the materials collected at the kerbside are not totally consistent with those collected through the bring recycling service. For example if mixed plastic packaging is collected via the kerbside but only plastic bottles at bring sites, this can cause confusion.

Recycle Now has a suite of colours and icons for different material stream categories.



Frequently asked questions

We are expanding our kerbside recycling service and considering removing our bring sites. What is the best way of approaching this?

Kerbside collection and bring sites complement one another. Before, during and after changes to your kerbside recycling system, it is worth reviewing your bring site network to check that bring sites are located in appropriate locations and that the materials collected there best suit residents' needs (as this may be dependent on where changes to kerbside collections have been made), and that you have the optimum number of containers for the range of materials collected. However, removing bring sites has the potential to reduce the overall performance of your recycling service. Consider consulting with residents to identify potential changes that might improve the overall provision of bring sites.

Since increasing the range of material collected at the kerbside, our bring site tonnages have dramatically decreased, although we are still collecting some tonnage through this route. What should we do next?

Measure tonnages on a site by site basis and review container fill levels/servicing frequency to gauge whether there are opportunities to either

- reduce the number of containers for specific materials on site;
- reduce servicing frequencies; or
- remove or relocate certain sites.

Also, if you have it, review residual waste composition data: there may be opportunities to use surplus containers to collect materials that are not collected at the kerbside.

Checklist

- Assess the opportunities and benefits of packaging bring services with other services, e.g. kerbside collections, street cleaning when procuring services.
- Review bring services and contract arrangements following changes to other waste collection services. For example, check the quantity of each material collected at different locations and required frequency of emptying, to see whether there are opportunities to rationalise servicing and/or bring site provision following service changes at kerbside/HWRCs. Consider accessibility for servicing and cleaning, and for site users (i.e. distance from nearest parking).
- Investigate vehicle requirements for bring sites containers to identify opportunities for using kerbside collection vehicles to service bring sites.
- Use consistent branding and colour of containers across different services to deliver a consistent recycling message, raise awareness of materials collected and reduce contamination of bring containers. It is recommended to use RecycleNow branding wherever possible.