

# Underground Refuse System

Operation and Management

**Speaker - Chris Hodges (Senior Contract Manager)**

# Background

- LBTH underground collections commenced 2001
- Pioneered system in UK
- Developed in conjunction with Poplar Harca and THCH
- Increase in waste capacity
- Improved visual aesthetic

# Development

- Originally one vehicle servicing 24 units
- Expanded to two vehicles in 2005 due to new developments and scheme uptake
- Third vehicle added in 2012 enabling original vehicle to become service support spare
- 2003 - 2009 saw a five fold increase in collection containers across borough
- Veolia take over service management as of August 2016
- New fleet procured in 2019

# Vehicles and Equipment

- Specialist RCV's with crane attached
- Qualified Crane Operators
- Purpose built waste chambers with street level access point/aperture
- 2 man crew per vehicle

# Maintenance

- Vehicles in scope of 'O' Licence regulations
- 6 weekly inspections
- Periodic crane service/inspection
- Breakdowns
- Container maintenance arranged by managing agent

# Issues

- Ageing fleet - Breakdowns
- Lack of available fleet cover due to bespoke nature of vehicles
- Requires skilled, experienced operatives
- Collection point access issues
- Public Safety

# Current Situation

- 2 brand new vehicles in operation
- 1 spare vehicle to cover servicing/inspections/breakdowns
- 395 Refuse Units
- 62 Recycling Units

# Contractor/Client Relationship

- Veolia inherited service in 2016
- More resources to support service
- Reduced expenditure on vehicle maintenance and staff training due to existing Veolia infrastructure
- Work closer with managing agents



# Future

- Increased service take up by managing agents/landlords for new builds
- Commercial service provision
- More vehicles
- Conversion of existing bin stocks to URS at some locations
- Other local authorities introducing service