

Our aim is zero waste  **recycle for Bury** ... Every item counts!

Moving to a 3 weekly bin collection service Glenn Stuart, Head of Waste Management, Bury MBC



Waste Management Service
Creating a cleaner, safer, greener borough | www.bury.gov.uk/recycling

Bury
COUNCIL

Introduction to Bury

- A WCA in Greater Manchester
- Part of the GMWDA and its 25 yr Waste Services PFI contract with Viridor
- Circa 82,000 h/h, 186,000 population
- No high rise, 8,000 'flats', 25,000 terraced with 'back street' collections, 1600 on rural/hard to reach round, remainder semis/detached
- Average household size of 2.34

Introduction to Bury

- 8% BME population
- Relatively small Asian and Eastern European population concentrated in Bury East
- Second largest orthodox Jewish population in country outside of London
- Circa 47% recycling rate for collected bin waste in 2013/14

Waste collection service prior to October

- **Grey 240 litre residual waste bins** emptied every 2 weeks.
- **Blue 240 litre co-mingled recycling bins (glass containers, cans, plastic bottles)** emptied every 4 weeks.
- **Green 240 litre pulpables bins (paper/card)** emptied every 4 weeks.
- **Brown 23/240 litre bio-waste bins (food and garden)** emptied every 2 weeks.

Drivers for change

- Environmental drivers
 - Zero Waste Strategy
 - Collected bin waste recycling targets of 55-60% by March 2015 and 60% by March 2016.
 - GMWDA PFI contract
 - NI192 recycling target of 50% across GM by 2015/16, 60% by 2025

Drivers for change

- Financial drivers
 - £16m savings required corporately in 2015/16
 - By end of 2015/16 a total of £54m savings made since 2010 – over 50% of the Council's controllable budget

Drivers for change

- Financial drivers

- In 2014/15

- Residual waste – costs £283 pt to treat and dispose
 - Bio-waste – costs £61 pt to compost
 - Co-mingled and pulpables recycling – generate an income of £25 pt

Drivers for change

Key messages

- It was costing **£28,000 a day** to get rid of grey bin waste - a whopping **£10.2 million per year**.
- A lot of what goes in grey bins could be recycled instead.
- A **10% rise** in recycling will save around **£1 million per year** – and help protect other vital public services.
- Most households can recycle **75%** of their bin waste.
- Other areas in Greater Manchester already recycling circa **60%**.

Options appraisal

- Restrict residual waste capacity further to drive recycling performance - 2 options considered:
 - 1. introduce new 140 litre bins emptied 2 weekly
 - 2. empty existing 240 litre bins 3 weekly

A range of collection frequencies for each bin was also examined

Option 2 chosen as way forward

New service in summary

- **Grey 240 litre residual waste bins collection frequency reduced to every 3 weeks**
- **Blue 240 litre co-mingled and green 240 litre pulpables bins collection frequency increased to every 3 weeks**
- **Brown 23/240 litre bio-waste bins collection frequency unchanged at every 2 weeks**
- Kitchen food waste caddy liners provided FOC on request
- Flats on communal bins and properties on the rural round remain on 2 weekly refuse collections for now, in absence of bio-waste collections

Advantages of chosen option

- Offers same total weekly bin capacity of 360 litres as before
- Avoids capital outlay of circa £1.1m for purchase of new 140 litre bins and logistics of exchanging bins
- Predicted to achieve 60% recycling of collected bin waste by 2016 and savings in avoided disposal costs of circa £860,000.

Advantages of chosen option

- No increase in operational costs – no increase in either staff or vehicles
- No job losses
- Provides maximum flexibility for the future

Preparation for new service

- Cabinet decision made 16 July, start date 06 October
- New collection rounds built
- Collection crews training and engagement
- FAQs and policies developed and published
- Additional staff resource in Contact Centre
- Approx 130,000 one off collections made, plus ad hoc collections on request

Preparation for new service

- Comprehensive communications campaign
 - Plentiful press coverage, nationally and locally
 - Pre leaflet delivered in August, information pack including calendar in September
 - Presentations at Township Forums
 - Series of area based awareness campaigns – ‘Right Stuff, Right Bin’
 - Workshops with orthodox Jewish community

Preparation for new service

- Residents able to:
 - Request additional dry recycling bins FOC (approx 10,000 to date)
 - Apply for additional residual capacity, subject to waste audit (approx 350 to date)
 - Upsize from a 140 litre residual waste bin to a 240 litre FOC, otherwise £30 admin and delivery charge applies

Implementation – results so far

- 5 weeks in, but only 2 weeks into first true 3 weekly cycle
- 90-95% of residual bins presented with closed lids
- Very little side waste evident
- Problems in back streets not noticeably worse
- Unaudited bin waste recycling rate of circa 55%

Way forward

- Use iPads in RCVs to gather intelligence
- Waste Regulatory Officers assigned to particular collection crews
- Policy of returning to any bin reported as missed, whether justified or not
- Target promotional activity in lower performing areas

Reaction

- Proposal broke in July – made national news
- Initial adverse reaction in some quarters
- Debate at Cabinet, Scrutiny and Township Forum meetings
- Bury Times coverage very balanced
- 2,500 name Facebook petition triggered Council debate
- Recent Bury Times polls

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**Thank you for
listening ...**

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