

SCRUTINY REVIEW – WASTE COLLECTION, RECYCLING & DISPOSAL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2007

Members Councillors *Jones (Chair), Hare, Rainger and *Patel

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** (Agenda Item 1): An apology for absence was received from Councillor Hare.
2. **URGENT BUSINESS** (Agenda Item 2): None submitted.
3. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** (Agenda Item 3): None notified.
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2007** [Agenda item 4].

The minutes were agreed.

5. **PRESENTATION FROM LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY** Agenda Item 5]

Beth Hodge, Recycling Manager, Hackney Council, gave a presentation to the Panel on Hackney Council's Compulsory Recycling policy. Hackney has a population size similar to Haringey with 210,000 residents. Over half of which are from black and ethnic minority groups. Unemployment stands at 16% which is high when compared to the national average; the borough is transient with 19% having lived in the borough for less than 5 years. The borough also has a high proportion of estate based households.

Only 37% of properties have gardens which demonstrate the lack of storage space for homes. In a bid to encourage sustainable waste disposal, [Hackney council](#) has made recycling compulsory, [letsrecycle.com](#) reports.



Recycling - now it's the law

Compulsory recycling comes to Hackney.

From 27 February it is compulsory for many residents in Hackney to separate their waste for recycling. In the affected wards residents are required to use their green box to recycle glass, tins and paper. However, it is important that everyone takes responsibility for the waste that they produce.

Residents have been warned they could be fined up to £1,000 if they do not make use of their green recycling boxes.

The measures, which apply to 20,000 households in the east London borough, follow a similar scheme in Barnet, where compulsory recycling has also been introduced.

Barnet council's recycling rate has doubled to 29.97 per cent since 2002/03.

Hackney council has stressed that the methods are being used simply to encourage people to recycle, and that legal action will only be used as a last resort.

Residents who do not put out their green recycling boxes will receive a postcard reminding them to do so. If they still regularly fail to do so after four to six weeks, a letter will be sent. This will be followed by a visit from an officer, and if the resident still refuses, a fine could be issued.

The council is looking to roll the scheme out to the rest of the borough's households if it is successful.

Recent government figures show that the UK has the worst recycling record in Europe, with only 18 per cent of household waste recycled in 2003/04.

Green boxes are issued to all 51,000 street based properties. Paper, glass, cans, cardboard, yellow pages, foil, engine oil, household car batteries, kitchen waste (15,000).

Hackney carried out a considerable amount of pre-campaign work as part of their compulsory recycling strategy, these included outreach workers engaging with community groups; road shows; school events, door knocking and information sessions for elected members.

Compulsory Recycling Journey

- 3 year Waste and Recycling Strategy November 2004
- Eunomia – Waste and Recycling Action Plan September 2005
- Compulsory recycling recommended
- Follows on from Barnet's successful model
- Paper, glass, cans/tins only
- Utilises Environmental Protection Act 1990 where LA's can specify how householders present their waste i.e. can specify waste is presented in the green box and not black sack
- Feb 2006 – Trial 12,500 households in 4 wards – Brownswood, Stoke Newington Central, Clissold and Lordship
- March 1st 2007 - Roll out 51k households



Factfile:

- In Hackney we produce enough rubbish to fill London Fields seven times each year.
- By recycling a one metre high pile of newspapers you can save one tree.
- If all aluminium drinks cans sold in the UK were recycled, there would be 14 million fewer full dustbins per year.

- An average UK household produces a huge one tonne of rubbish each year.
- In the UK, a shocking 30% to 40% of food produced is never eaten - a quarter of all the rubbish we throw away is food.

6. EVALUATION FROM THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS QUESTIONNAIRES [Agenda Item 6]

The Panel considered the results of the residents and business questionnaire. This small scale consultation was based on a questionnaire distributed at public meetings and personal distribution by the Scrutiny Team locally and across the Borough during October and November 2008. Designed to provide a flavour of ideas and issues on waste management and recycling; Haringey Consultation Unit conducted desk research as a ‘scoping’ exercise and this research looked at a range of consultations, research studies and policy papers produced by other councils.

In addition to the consultation with residents; local businesses in the Wood Green and Hornsey and Tottenham High Road area have had the opportunity to contribute with a choice of online or hard copy questionnaires. A total of 60 residents responded to the consultation. The table 1 below gives a summary detail of age and ethnic origin. Table 2 showed the percentage of people with a disability who responded.

Table 1

		ETHNIC			
		White/ British	Other	Not stated	Total
		Count	Count	Count	Count
AgeGroup	Under 25	0	0	0	0
	25-44	10	1	1	12
	45-64	13	2	5	20
	65 and over	23	3	2	28
	Total	46	6	8	60

Table 2

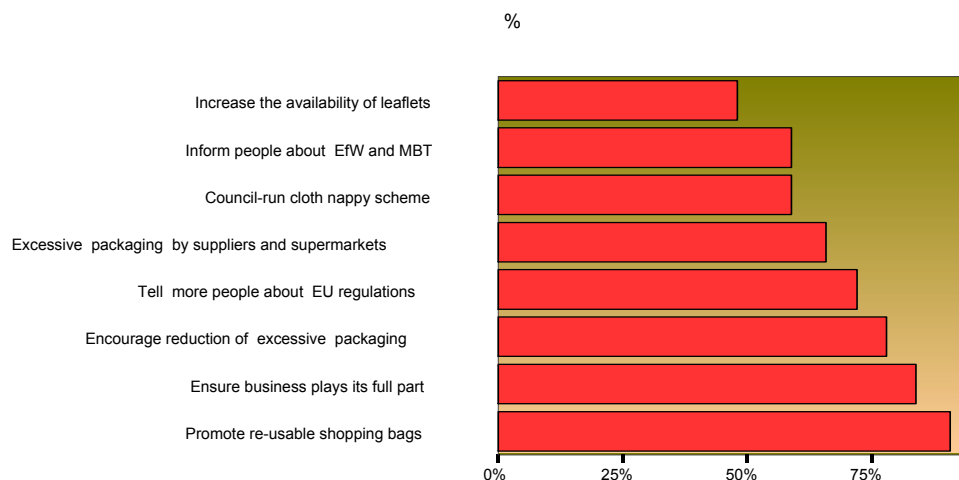
	Col %
Do you or anyone in your household have a disability? - Yes	12%
Do you or anyone in your household have a disability? - No	88%

Residents who said they had a disability were asked what impact this had on recycling; and their responses are set out below:

- I cannot walk to the recycling bins and don't have space in front of house
- Larger recycling bins instead of boxes would be useful
- Bulky items could be collected as I can't lift them
- More recycling services from the doorstep
- Winter timetable for collecting green waste - needs to be more frequent
- Help with removing large items from house for collection
- GREEN BOX COLLECTORS ARE FANTASTIC COLLECTING FROM PORCH
- I can't always manage to put the bin outside

There is considerable support for the ideas and initiatives which tackle the issue at source; rather than those which might appear only to target the end user – namely the householder. It is a possibility that residents might be inclined to make greater efforts themselves if they thought that manufacturers, suppliers and retailers were also ‘doing their bit’.

91% were in favour of promoting reusable shopping bags, 84% wanted businesses and commerce to play their part and 72% of respondents felt that people should be told about the fact that the Council needs to comply with EU regulations.



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Residents comments on what they think Haringey Council can do to encourage recycling efforts

- Give us eco feedback on best/average household achievement rates in recycling etc
- There should be community composts in local parks; and awards for most creative re-use/repairs
- Enable wider range of plastics recycling. Discourage plastic carrier bags. Provide energy saving advice and more doorstep recycling
- Improve bulk collections and collections in problem areas like Beaconsfield Rd and Clyde Rd in N15. Education in itself will not be enough in some areas
- Now, apart from food and garden waste, you collect everything in one go. Why not have 140L green and brown bins - maybe have orange sacks for aluminum
- Fine residents and businesses who ignore recycling - implementing this would, admittedly, be difficult.
- Have a uniform service instead of current patchwork recycling and routine collections. My street doesn't have food waste collection – the next street does. There is far too much litter in street and fly tipping.

- Reduce waste at source. Develop fun presentations for schools, youth centers, sheltered housing.
- Collect more materials - encourage use of bio degradable starch-based bags for all uses and think about collection of textiles/clothes
- Recycle more materials and campaign against excess supermarket and manufacturers' packaging.
- Take tougher action against dumping rubbish. Bold warning signs about fly tipping and dumping rubbish - more in community languages
- Need plastics recycling and refunds on drinks cans and bottles - more public events.
- Returnable deposits on drinks cans and bottles - more public events to encourage
- Make sure that residents are informed about these issues but use a separate booklet and NOT via Haringey People which smacks too much of council self promotion
- Have more collection of plastic waste. Encourage businesses and shops to use less wasteful products and packaging. Have more eye-catching posters in public places, ban plastic bags
- Require supermarkets and other retailers to provide facilities for returning stiff plastic containers for fruit and meat. Have more recycling services of people in flats and apartments. Try to encourage residents rather than pushing for fines and penalties
- Don't use Haringey People to inform residents as it is seen too much as a vehicle for spin.
- Collect textiles house to house. You should campaign against excess packaging. You also need much better communications and information on these issues".

		Count	Col %
\$Q2a	Mixed recycling in green boxes - Tick to indicate which services you know are provided in your area	46	82%
	Mixed recycling in green boxes - Tick those services which you currently use	47	84%
	Mixed recycling in green boxes - WOULD use if they were provided	3	5%
	Food waste collection - Tick to indicate which services you know are provided in your area	28	50%
	Food waste collection - Tick those services which you currently use	16	29%
	Food waste collection - WOULD use if they were provided	13	23%
	Garden waste collection - Tick to indicate which services you know are provided in your area	38	68%
	Garden waste collection - Tick those services which you currently use	32	57%
	Garden waste collection - WOULD use if they were provided	5	9%
	Bottles and newspaper doorstep collection - Tick to indicate which services you know are provided in your area	33	59%
	Bottles and newspaper doorstep collection - Tick those services which you currently use	30	54%
	Bottles and newspaper doorstep collection - WOULD use if they were provided	7	13%
	Other paper, card and magazine collection - Tick to indicate which services you know are provided in your area	22	39%
	Other paper, card and magazine collection - Tick those services which you currently use	20	36%
	Other paper, card and magazine collection - WOULD use if they were provided	17	30%
	Plastic bottles, plastic milk containers - Tick to indicate which services you know are provided in your area	20	36%
	Plastic bottles, plastic milk containers - Tick those services which you currently use	18	32%
	Plastic bottles, plastic milk containers - WOULD use if they were provided	23	41%
Total	56	100%	

Thus with *mixed recycling in green boxes*; 82% say the service is provided and 84% say they use it. The higher figure indicates that one respondent uses the service but did not tick the box saying that he or she knew it was provided! The small number saying they **would** use it simply reflects the fact that most already do use this facility.

With food waste collection 50% say the facility is provided; while 29% actually use it. A further 23% say they **would** use it if provided in their locality. Sixty-eight percent believe that a garden waste service is provided while 57% make use of it.

A majority of respondents, who confirm it is provided, also use the garden waste collection facility. A similar proportion (54%) makes use of the doorstep bottles and newspaper collection service.

7. REVIEW UPDATE – To consider the current position of the review. The panel felt that it had considered all aspects of the terms of reference and that an additional meeting should be arranged to consider the recommendations for the report.

8. URGENT BUSINESS: To deal with any items of urgent business admitted at item 2 above - None notified.

Cllr Emma Jones
Chair