

QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN GREEN CROYDON Councillor Stuart Collins		
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CQ090-18 from Councillor Stuart Millson

Councillor Stuart Collins

I note in the briefing given to Councillors that the overhaul of Croydon recycling services due to be introduced in September is projected to increase recycling rates from 38% to 50% and deliver cost savings of £5 million per year, mainly as a result of reduced waste going to landfill and higher volumes of paper and card which the contractor can sell.

It is clear that reducing the size of the general waste bin is critical to this business case. It is less clear that the replacement of recycling boxes with wheelie bins will have an impact, given that the Council has always been willing to provide additional boxes to those who request them.

Could the Cabinet member please tell me how much money is projected to be saved, and how much recycling increased, from each of the following aspects:

- a) reduction in size of general waste bin
- b) increased efficiency of collection from replacing boxes with bins
- c) any other measures (please detail where possible)

In addition, please could the cabinet member please tell me the current and projected future volumes recycled for both paper/card and plastics / glass/ cans for a typical household seeing their recycling boxes replaced with wheelie bins?

Reply

The saving quoted of £5M p.a. is a direct comparison between the Croydon's contractual costs for the new waste services under The South London Waste Partnership's contract for Waste Services compared to the cost of the council's previous contract. This contract was procured under the Public procurement regulations and was presented to committee in July 2016.

The £5M quoted is a contractual saving and has nothing to do with the reduction of the landfill bin. The decision to reduce the landfill bin could save up to 160,000 tonnes of landfill waste, saving in excess of £10M in disposal costs over the next 10 years. This, added to the savings already

made via the procurement of the new contract will contribute to a saving in excess of £60M over the next 10 years, which is more than enough to fund the additional bins which cost approximately £2.3M.

The ratio of landfill to recycling is currently 60:40 in favour of landfill – in order to do our bit for the planet and drive down disposal costs, it was important to redress this imbalance. We want recycling to be something everyone in the borough does, not just rely on the good will of some, whilst making it comfortable for others to put all their waste in landfill. In order to help make Croydon one of London's cleanest, greenest boroughs, something had to change and that was the reduction of the landfill bin and the increased capacity for recycling.

CQ091-18 from Councillor Ian Parker

Councillor Stuart Collins

Following pressure from residents, Croydon Council are now going to collect the unwanted recycling boxes.

What is the cost of this exercise, was it budgeted for, how will this service be communicated to particularly elderly residents who don't have internet access and will the boxes collected count towards the Council's recycling target?

Reply

From the cost savings that have already been outlined, there has been provision for an extensive communications campaign around the new bins. The council will be offering a free collection service for a 2 week period starting in late September for any residents who don't want to keep their boxes. The exact timings of this will be communicated by letter to all residents in the borough. The exact costs of collection are not known at this time as it will be dependent on how many people wish to retain their boxes for use around the household, but this cost will be easily absorbed by the savings made through the new collection scheme.

CQ096-18 from Councillor Stuart Millson

Councillor Stuart Collins

Please tell me how many missed bin collections were reported in the borough, and how many missed collections were rectified by 4pm the next day, in the following two periods:

11th June - 1st July

2nd July - 22nd July

What compensation has the Council received from Veolia as a result of missed bin collections in each of the two periods above?

Reply

At the time in question, the KPI associated with the contract was a maximum of 90 missed collections per 100,000 properties. I am unable to give the monetary value of these penalties due to commercial sensitivity, however, where the contractor has failed to meet this target, I can confirm that contractual penalties were applied.

CQ105-18 from Councillor Mario Creatura

Councillor Stuart Collins

The Cabinet Member is currently overseeing the rollout of a dramatic change in the way Croydon is processing our waste and recycling, which is understandably causing some difficulties for many residents.

Many of the properties across Croydon have small frontages, with no front gardens and front doors immediately off pavements. This means that the three full-size bins will often be blocking the public high way.

Could the Cabinet Member please:

1. Publish the list of streets in the borough assessed to have small frontages. Those being properties where the front door is immediately on the pavement, there is no front garden or area for storage and no side passage for storage.
2. Publish the results of any formal consultation and correspondence with organisations like the Croydon Disability Forum and Croydon Vision who represent the many residents who will be impacted by the practicalities of the waste and recycling changes.
3. Detail guidance for any resident with mobility issues who may find their path regularly obstructed by these bins
4. Outline the communications plan for how and when these residents and organisations will be informed of this advice.

Reply

We do not permit bins to be stored on the pavement and, should we identify any area where they are, we will liaise with the owner to ensure the bins are stored within the frontage of the property.

The criteria set for the delivery of bins was that there had to be sufficient room for the bins to be stored within the property boundary so properties with no frontages should not have received the bins.

Many of these unsuitable roads were picked up through the initial survey, however, through the delivery process we were made aware of around 25 roads which were mistakenly delivered bins due to contractor error. Whilst

we would have hoped these would not have been delivered, bearing in mind the number of roads we did deliver to, the rate of error is low.

We have now removed from these properties which weren't suitable for the new service and allowed them to remain on the old system. Clearly we are in the early stages of a major service change and as it progresses there may be one or two more properties that we deem unsuitable for the service due to operational reasons, so once the service has bedded in I'd be happy to publish a list of the roads that were deemed unsuitable for the new service.

For those with mobility issues who have no one else in the property to help them move the bins, we offer an assisted collection whereby the crew collects and returns the bins from the doorstep.

CQ112-18 from Councillor Mario Creatura

Councillor Stuart Collins

I've been contacted by a resident who was surprised to see Croydon does not offer nappy collections or extra nappy bins - even at an additional cost to residents.

Camden Council offers a free weekly nappy and adult hygiene products collection service is available to certain households. Nappy bags can be ordered and are delivered working five working days of request. Orders will be delivered within five working days of request. Nappy waste can obviously be unpleasant for residents to have around for two weeks at a time, and can take up a large amount of refuse space in one wheelie bin.

Would the Council consider introducing such a service, even if it wasn't free? It would make a big difference to many young families and help to create much needed space in landfill bins.

Reply

Well over 70% of waste is recyclable in Croydon which means that there should not be an issue with space in the landfill bins if people are recycling properly. That said we are offering larger bins to larger families and those with specific medical needs.

Croydon is committed to eliminating single use plastics wherever possible and prefers to take a preventative approach to this problem by signposting residents to the Croydon Real Nappy Network, an which is an organisation set up to promote the benefits of using traditional cloth nappies over disposable ones. There are considerable environmental benefits to cloth nappies including lower costs to residents as well as the nappies themselves being reusable and therefore not entering the waste stream.

It is my understanding that the scheme in Camden was set up to test the viability of a collection system for nappies, but that the nappies are not currently being recycled due to there being no local reprocessing facility for this type of waste. The introduction of such a scheme in Croydon would need to be built on the basis of a business case setting out environmental and economic benefits. So even if a reprocessing facility did exist locally, we would need to be convinced from an environmental standpoint that the

impacts in terms of carbon emissions from running a separate fleet of vehicles to collect this waste, deliver it to the facility and reprocess it were outweighed by the benefits of recycling this material.

We would much rather deal with this waste further up the waste hierarchy by reducing the overall amount of nappies being produced wherever possible through the promotion of real nappies.