

Appendix 1: The waste and recycling service at LDC

Issues with the current recycling service relate to the complexity of the current collection system, capacity within the system and the ageing recycling fleet.

The current service offer

- LDC's waste service is provided to approximately 44,500 properties across the district. Domestic waste is collected weekly, from black plastic bags and bins, supplied by the customer
- Food waste is collected weekly from those residents who opt in to the service (currently around 10,000 households). A kitchen caddy and larger outdoor caddy are supplied by LDC.
- Dry recycling is collected fortnightly, again from those who opt in (currently around 33,000 households)
- The containers supplied are:



Small box	paper
Large box	cans, plastic bottles, small items of scrap metal
Reusable bag	card
Reusable bag	glass
Single-use sack	textiles
Single-use sack	batteries

A different level of service

- Communal recycling bins for paper and cardboard are available for blocks of flats where kerbside collections are not practical. Food waste caddies are offered to flats where practical.
- Less accessible properties in the district e.g. remote/ narrow streets or twittens are provided with a weekly refuse collection and offered kerbside recycling collection where practical.
- This different level of recycling and food waste collection service affects about 5,000 properties.

Capacity issues, recycling

- **Residents would like to recycle a greater volume of material**
- **There is no capacity to take more material**

The current service for dry recycling offers capacity for approximately 95 litres of material per household per week against the WRAP target of 120 litres a week. This represents a shortfall of 25 litres a week, or 1,300 litres per household per year.

Feedback from residents (via Customer Services) indicates that many would like to be able to recycle a greater volume of material, for example to have more cardboard collected from the kerb side.

Anecdotally, committed recyclers indicate they have to make trips to Household Waste Recycling Sites in order to dispose of card which does not fit into the bag provided, entailing additional car journeys, carbon emissions and inconvenience to our customers.

Materials taken to the HWRS do not attract a recycling credit for LDC. Alternatively, the recyclable material goes to incineration.

However, the vehicles which collect dry recycling materials are at capacity:

- EV capacity = 7000 litres
- Each EV is filled to capacity up to 5 times per day

The electric vehicle fleet

- **The current recycling collection fleet is at end of life**
- **Approximately £80,000 is required to keep it on the road for the next 12 – 15 months**

The fleet of electric vehicles (EV) used in the kerb-side sort and collection of dry recycling is coming to the end of life and the manufacturer is out of business. Reliability is compromised by the lack of (second hand) replacement parts, despite best efforts of the fitters at Robinson Road. The breakdown rate affects round schedules.

Additional to the budget for 2016/17, the existing EV fleet requires substantial refurbishment investment, in the region of £80,000, to extend life for between 12 and

15 months. The investment is essential and unavoidable in order to keep the fleet on the road but will not be recouped.

A modern replacement vehicle for the current collection method, the basic model 'Romaquip', costs £125,000. LDC cannot make that investment without knowing the longer term strategic direction for the waste and recycling service.

Any replacements for EVs will also require a transfer station facility to service the vehicles and manage materials.

Crew-related issues with kerb-side sort

- **The process is slow and this causes conflict with the road-using public**
- **Sorting and lifting the material causes muscular-skeletal injuries**

Transportation arrangements

From kerbside pick-up, paper, cardboard and glass are held at drop off points (e.g. car parks) before being collected by HGVs and transported to various waste transfer stations around the district, then taken on to the market without further sort, e.g. paper is delivered to a facility in Uckfield and card to Hailsham. The number of outlets receiving recyclate is reducing (e.g. Aylesford Newsprint Ltd has ceased trading).

These transportation arrangements – which are necessitated by current disposal methods – are inefficient in terms of labour and fuel.

Furthermore, noise and safety concerns have been raised by residents about car parks and other community amenities being used for dropping off and holding quantities of material.

Recycling fleet – the HGVs

There are 5 recycling HGV lorries collecting and distributing materials as described above. Some of the lorries are 10 years old and due to be replaced. New vehicles can be ordered once the direction for the service is set.

Ends -