



Report For:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Cabinet 17 December 2018
Part:	Part 1 - Open

SUMMARY	
Title of Report:	CLOSURE OF REMAINING RECYCLING BRING BANKS IN WYCOMBE DISTRICT
Cabinet Member: Officer Contact: Direct Dial: Email:	Councillor Mrs Julia Adey Nigel Dicker 01494 421701 Nigel.Dicker@wycombe.gov.uk
Wards affected:	All
Reason for the Decision:	<p>The removal of the eight bring bank sites located in Wycombe District is recommended for the following reasons:</p> <p>The recommended action will release resource, provide service resilience and bring financial savings in the current contract, which has 16 months to run. These financial savings can be used to bring resources to support bulk bin collections at flatted developments and so improve the reliability of this increasingly unreliable service.</p> <p>The benefits delivered by the bring banks in terms of useful recycling and convenience for residents are now not proportionate to the costs of collection and sorting of material, the need for clearance of spillages and fly tips and the cost of disposal of contaminated material.</p> <p>Residents can effectively access all the recycling streams (and more) offered by the recycling bring banks, including larger pieces of card that arise from mail order packaging, through the kerbside collection service.</p> <p>Removal of all bring banks in the three districts will help simplify the procurement process currently underway for a new waste collection and street cleaning contract, which is due to commence in spring 2020.</p> <p>Where the bring banks occupy parking spaces or reduce access in car parks, their removal may lead to reduced pressure on parking spaces.</p> <p>Not removing the bring banks will mean that the authorities continue to carry costs arising from abuse by businesses, fly tipping and contamination that can</p>

	<p>render collected material unusable. It will also not be possible to make operational savings and to divert this funding to support bulk bin services, which will continue to experience worsening resource pressures.</p> <p>Continuation of the recycling bring bank service will mean it will remain within the new joint waste collection contract and as a result, bidders will still need to price to provide for the continuation of the service.</p>
<p>Proposed Decision:</p>	<p>That Cabinet approves the closure of the remaining eight recycling bring banks in Wycombe District (Table 1), to commence after the Christmas 2018 holiday period and that financial savings arising from the closures are diverted to increase resources and so improve the existing bulk bin collection service for flatted properties.</p>
<p>Sustainable Community Strategy/Council Priorities - Implications</p>	<p>This proposal contributes to the Place, Prosperity and Progress strands of the Corporate Plan.</p>
<p>Monitoring Officer/ S.151 Officer Comments</p>	<p>Monitoring Officer: Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990), the Council does not have a legal duty to collect waste using recycling bring banks. It <u>does</u> however have duty to collect household waste from domestic properties although the frequency of collection is not specified. There is also a legal duty under S45A of the EPA 1990 to collect a minimum of two streams of recyclable household waste, separate from any residual household waste, from the kerbside. The proposal in this report does not therefore impact upon any waste or recycling collection duty that the council currently has.</p> <p>Contractual change notices and other arrangements will be managed by the Joint Waste Team with advice from Chiltern District Council Legal Services if this is necessary.</p> <p>Contract management officers will negotiate to secure a suitable new collection vehicle resource for the bulk bins service, for deployment when the bring banks no longer require servicing by the existing vehicle.</p> <p>S.151 Officer: Anticipated annual savings due to the closure of all remaining recycling bring banks are approximately £164k (based on annual sums in the Bill of Quantities and other on-going service costs).</p> <p>One off costs associated with ad hoc cleansing works and making good of sites are estimated to be £10k.</p> <p>The anticipated additional cost for the support and improvement of the bulk bin collection service is estimated to be approximately £149k. Therefore, this</p>

	<p>proposal is expected to be cost neutral for Wycombe District Council for the remainder of the existing waste collection and street cleaning contract.</p> <p>Requests from residents needing kerbside containers as a result of bring bank removal can be met from existing resources.</p>
Options:	The options are set out in the main report below.
Next Steps:	Similar reports are also to be presented to Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council in December 2018, also seeking authorisation to close the recycling bring banks in their respective districts. If all three Cabinets approve the recommendations then the closure programme will commence as proposed in this report.
Background Papers:	None
Abbreviations:	None

Detailed Report

Executive Summary

1. A report from the Joint Waste Team covering the three districts in the Joint Waste Partnership was presented to the 3rd October meeting of the Joint Waste Committee (JWCC). The report recommended to JWCC the closure of all recycling bring banks within the three council areas and also recommended that reports be presented to the three Council Cabinets seeking authorisation to close the bring banks in their respective districts.
2. Due to increases in the number of flatted properties, resources for emptying of bulk bins at flatted developments are overloaded, with rising levels of complaint due to irregular collections. The removal of the recycling bring banks will release resources, provide resilience and should bring financial savings in the current contract, which still has 16 months or so to run. These financial savings can be used to bring additional resources to support bulk bin collections at flatted developments and so to improve the reliability of this service.
3. In recent years, officers have undertaken strategic reviews of the public bring banks in consultation with Members and key stakeholders. The kerbside recycling collection offered to residents of the three districts is of a high standard and a wide range of recycling opportunities is available to each household. The relative importance of the bring banks in terms of recycling tonnages has therefore dramatically diminished.
4. Recommendations have previously been made for the closure of various individual sites for reasons that included miss-use, contamination of materials, fly tipping, litter issues, safety concerns, and lack of use.

5. Eight sites remain in each of the three districts and there is now an opportunity to review them, ahead of the commencement of the new joint waste collection contract for the three authorities in spring 2020.

Background

New Joint Waste Service

6. Procurement work is well under way for the next joint waste collection and street cleaning contract and this presents an opportunity to reach a common position across all three districts with the discontinuation of all bring banks. In common with most current contract procurements it is felt that costs may rise in any new contract, and making minor service changes such as this is a way of mitigating potential increases without significantly reducing future service levels.
7. It is proposed that the current kerbside recycling service will remain unchanged in the new contract. This covers food waste, paper and cardboard, dry mixed recyclables (mixed cans, plastics, foil, mixed glass bottles, food cartons such as 'tetra pak') textiles, garden waste and batteries. Reasonable amounts of oversized card are also collected as side waste, if it is flattened and folded to a manageable size and presented neatly.

Current Position

8. Bring banks at Wiltshire Road and Liston Road, Marlow have recently closed and residents have moved to the kerbside service. Other closures have taken place and recycling performance has not dropped, demonstrating that the closures have not had a negative impact on performance.

Implementation of Closures

9. Working to a project plan, the Joint Waste Team would undertake to notify local stakeholders of the decision taken to close the remaining bring bank sites in their areas. Recycling information and timetables etc. would be provided to affected residents. Any closure programme would commence after the Christmas holidays and catch up period for kerbside refuse and recycling collections.
10. The Joint Waste Team will work closely with Communications officers to develop and deliver a clear and effective communication strategy.
11. As with previous experience of bring bank closures, some residents may come forward once publicity starts as they don't have access to kerbside recycling services. If this happens, officers can assist by agreeing solutions with the contractor, and by providing new containers and recycling information.
12. It may be that residents with sack collections may not be able to present extra kerbside recycling. This particularly affects properties that front directly onto high streets. Practical solutions will be sought in collaboration with the contractor to overcome these issues.
13. A recent traveller incursion within the district has highlighted the need to ensure that the boundaries of any car park hosting bring banks continue to be secure following any removal work. Officers have compiled a schedule of the car park sites affected in Wycombe District and will liaise with the Council's parking service to ensure that the removal of bring banks does not facilitate unwanted access to any Council car park site.

Conclusions

14. If approved by Cabinet, the proposals to close the remaining recycling bring banks will result in contract savings that may be diverted to improve another service that is under

pressure, due to the increasing number of flatted properties in the district that require bulk bin collections.

15. The closures will be managed carefully and communicated in advance. If residents face difficulties in accessing kerbside recycling collections, efforts will be made to provide information on how to access services, and new containers will be provided as appropriate.
16. Bring banks are increasingly blighted by litter and fly tipping problems and the material collected in them is often unusable, or is deposited by business users looking to avoid waste and recycling collection charges. Previous closures have not caused a reduction in household recycling performance.

Table 1 – Recycling bring banks in Wycombe District due to be closed under the proposal

No	Location
1	Loudwater - Doctors Surgery, Queensmead Road.
2	Hazlemere - Beaumont Way car park.
3	Hazlemere - Park Parade car park.
4	High Wycombe - Asda store (Cressex).
5	High Wycombe - (formerly) Plant & Harvest Garden Centre, Chorley Road.
6	High Wycombe - Morrisons store, Bellfield Road.
7	Marlow - Riley Road car park.
8	Princes Risborough – The Mount, Stratton Road car park.