

Future of Waste Services Member Workshop
Wednesday 4 September 2024, 6pm – 8pm, Council Chamber

Feedback from Members

Question number	Question	Answer
1.	Regarding revenue costs, option two expects equal levels of contamination to option three. Has this been considered in the modelling by Eunomia?	<p>Yes, it has. Below is the expected contamination rate for each option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (current system): 1% • Option one (stackable trollies): 1% • Option two (Quatro bin): 9% • Option three (two wheeled bins): 9% • Option four (co-mingled): 13%. <p>This reflects the fact that residents sort recycling in the baseline and option one and crews are able to identify and reject contaminated containers.</p> <p>Whilst residents sort the recycling in options two and three, crews are less able to identify contamination.</p> <p>No sorting in option four leads to slightly higher levels of contamination.</p>
2.	Option three results in recycling being directed for disposal by Leicestershire County Council (LCC). Is there an assumption we'll know what happens to the recycling?	<p>Recycling would be sent to Casepak, a Materials Recycling Facility in Leicester. The county council is obligated to report the end destinations for all collected materials on a quarterly basis to DEFRA. The final destinations for any materials sorted by Casepak and sent for reprocessing in the UK are reported and published at www.lesswaste.org.uk/recycle/what-happens-to-your-kerbside-recycling</p>

3.	What happens to Tetra Paks/cartons in option three?	Residents will have two separate wheeled bins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One bin for cans, tins, plastics, foil, and Tetra Paks • One bin for paper and cardboard.
4.	How many bins will residents have in total for each option?	In all options, each household would continue to be provided with a refuse bin and a garden waste bin. There will also be a phased roll out of food waste collections throughout 2025/26 where each household will present a 23-litre food waste bin at the kerbside. Therefore, the total number of bins at each household would be as follows: Option one (stackable trollies): five bins. Option two (Quatro recycling bin): four bins. Option three (two wheeled bins): five bins. Option four (co-mingled): four bins.
5.	What is our leverage with Leicestershire County Council (LCC) contracts regarding retaining material and income?	LCC are the disposal authority, so they have greater control over the materials as they're legally responsible for the disposal of them.
6.	Can NWLDC retain the material/income from fibres in option three?	Officers have carried out an assessment to explore this possibility. However, the costs of maintaining a sorting facility, staffing requirements and the upcoming Deposit Return Scheme would make it financially unviable.
7.	Have the costings for separating glass from plastics/cans/tins been explored in option three, so we can retain more material/income?	The costs for separating glass post-collection have been considered and is referenced in section 8.7 of the report. To collect glass from households separately in option three would introduce a new collection system altogether. In Eunomia's experience, the cost of that service is normally greater than the additional income it can generate.

8.	Have cartons and plastic film been considered in the modelling?	Yes, this is referenced in section 8.2 of the report.
9.	Option three is most favoured among residents. Do residents fully understand what option three means in terms of recyclability, quality and loss of materials/income?	The implications of option three are included in the Scrutiny report.
10.	How many views did the recycling container options video receive?	The video explaining the three recycling container options received 7.4K views on YouTube.
11.	Was cost implication mentioned in the public consultation? Could this have changed the outcome of resident survey?	No, as at the time of the resident survey, the modelling exercise was not financial.
12.	Is there any legislation on local authorities to dispose of recycling in any particular way, for example to stop it being sent to landfill or abroad?	This was previously legislated by Section 46 of the Environment Act 1990, but it is now legislated in the Environment Act 2021.
13.	Are there any examples of councils doing separated on-street recycling well?	Eunomia has advised North Tyneside Council appear to perform well with regards to recycling tonnages vs. residual waste tonnages from street litter bins. Islington Council have also completed a lot of work and engagement to improve recycling captured in street bins. However, in Eunomia's experience, a common theme with on-street recycling bins is that they are nearly always contaminated, leading to the contents being disposed of as residual waste.
14.	Have we considered alternative options for procuring vehicles in the short term to continue with the current system? Such as loaning, buying second hand or buying then selling?	Vehicles are currently hired to support the current fleet at an additional expense. Also, recycling kerbsider vehicles are not commonly available, so are prohibitively expensive to hire.
15.	Should we be considering the current operation (baseline)?	During the all-member workshop held in July 2023, Members set out areas of improvement for the current service and their key priorities for the future service which demonstrate the need

		and appetite to change to a new collection system. Feedback from residents and staff during the consultation process also demonstrate an appetite for change.
16.	Can the cost implication to maintain the current system be included in the decision? It is the morally right thing to do recycling-wise.	This is provided in the Scrutiny report.
17.	How much does each option cost per household? How does this compare to neighbouring Leicestershire authorities?	<p>The costs are provided below; however, it is important to note they are likely not directly comparable to known numbers for other Leicestershire councils. This is because the scope of those numbers include elements of the service not included in this modelling (such as number of streets, bulky waste collections and number of spare vehicles etc.)</p> <p>Costs per household, per annum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (including DRS): £51.73 • Option one (stackable trollies): £59.98 • Option two (Quatro recycling bin): £64.47 • Option three (two wheeled bins): £61.07 • Option four (co-mingled): £52.17
18.	Do other Leicestershire authorities share an operation, and which options align us to the rest of the county?	No, they each operate collections either in-house or outsourced to a contractor. Option four would align us with the rest of Leicestershire for recycling and domestic waste, but garden waste would remain free of charge (for the first bin).
19.	Can the sizes of collection vehicles be clarified?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option one (stackable trollies): 12 tonne Romaquip • Option two (Quatro recycling bin): 26 tonne Quatro vehicle. • Option three (two wheeled bins): 26 tonne split RCV • Option four (comingled): 26 tonne RCV.

		All options also consider a smaller 'link' vehicle for narrow streets and those with common parking and access issues. This vehicle hasn't been included in the modelling but was included in the Fleet Management Strategy which was adopted by Cabinet in 2021.
20.	What does each option mean for the depot operation and our own sorting?	<p>Options one and two retain the current depot operation of sorting recycling. Costs to upgrade the separation technology have been included in the fleet replacement programme.</p> <p>The implications of option three would be dependent on future LCC contract discussions. Mixed glass, plastics, cans and tins would be sent to Casepak for sorting and the council would not receive any income. If NWLDC were allowed to retain the mixed cardboard and paper, an indicative price has been provided from one reprocessor of £70 per tonne. In October/November 2024, separated card and paper provided a combined income of £176 per tonne. However, the costs of maintaining a sorting facility, staffing requirements and the upcoming Deposit Return Scheme would make it financially unviable.</p> <p>The implications of option four are subject to future LCC contract discussions. This option would likely mean all recycling would be sent to Casepak and the council would not receive any income.</p>

The following questions were also asked at the workshop following an explanation of the legislation risks surrounding option four (comingled bin).

1. Why does the decision need to be made now when there are so many uncertainties regarding Government legislation?
2. Can we lobby the government for clarity on Simpler Recycling?
3. What are other Leicestershire councils considering? If comingled is a big risk with legislation, will they need to change too?
4. Why has option four been included if there is a big risk it doesn't comply with legislation?

Following further discussion with CLT and the legal team, the decision was taken to await further Government guidance on the 'Simpler Recycling' legislation before a decision is made on a new recycling system.

The Government provided an update on the legislation on 29 November 2024.