

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 13 October 2010	Meeting Name: Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Report title:		Briefing for food waste recycling pilot	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		East Dulwich, Nunhead, Peckham Rye, Surrey Docks, The Lane, Village	
From:		Strategic Director of Environment and Housing	

Introduction

1. This pilot scheme has been designed to test the impact of food recycling provision for street-based properties in Southwark.
2. The over all aim of the pilot is to demonstrate that recycling can be significantly increased (and landfill costs correspondingly reduced) with the introduction of an easy-to-use recycling service for food and garden waste as well as dry recyclables.
3. The main objectives of the pilot are to
 - Bring forward food recycling collections in a pilot area from 2015, to 2010
 - Provide a simplified recycling service in a pilot area
 - Significantly increase the recycling rate in the pilot area
 - Gather operational and resident feedback to inform a potential further rollout
 - Demonstrate value for money and affordability principles in all elements of the project

Pilot details

3. Residents in street-based properties in Southwark use three schemes to manage their waste:

A **blue box** – for ‘dry’ recycling, currently collected weekly
A **brown bin** – for garden waste, currently collected fortnightly
A **green bin** – for residual waste, currently collected weekly
4. The scheme will cover approximately 10,000 households across the borough. The key elements of the pilot are:
 - All food waste can now go into the **brown bin** with garden waste; this will be collected weekly
 - All ‘dry’ recyclables can be mixed together in the **blue box** to make recycling easier; this will be collected weekly
 - The small remainder of waste goes into the **green bin**; this will be collected fortnightly.
5. There is no overall change in the total number of collections to be provided in the pilot area.
6. The following tables show how a household’s bin use will compare using the current and pilot arrangements.

Current collections

Receptacle	Estimated current % of waste	Frequency
Brown bin	15	Fortnightly
Blue box	20	Weekly
Green bin	65	Weekly

Pilot collections

Receptacle	Projected % of waste	Frequency
Brown bin	35	Weekly
Blue box	35	Weekly
Green bin	30	Fortnightly

8. The pilot has been designed to ensure that all food waste will be collected weekly, preventing issues with odour or pests.

Scope of pilot

9. The pilot scheme will start on October 4th and last for six months. It will include approximately 10,000 households in five areas. These areas have been chosen to utilise the highest-density of existing brown garden waste bins and collection routes in Southwark (see map below). This is to maximise use of existing receptacles to ensure best possible use of resources.

