

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 25 May 2011	Decision Taker: Cabinet Member for Transport, Environment and Recycling
Report title:		Changes to waste services to street-based properties in Southwark	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Environment	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To roll out food waste recycling services (including fortnightly refuse collections) to all appropriate street-based properties across the borough, coinciding with the planned switch to commingled recycling for all street-based properties in Autumn 2011.
2. To take the opportunity that arises from the roll out to change the collection frequency for commingled recycling from street-based properties to fortnightly in order to make the service more efficient.
3. To introduce blue 240 litre wheeled bins in place of blue boxes for all suitable street-based properties to provide additional capacity for recycling.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Food Waste Pilot

4. A successful food waste collection pilot operated in five areas in the borough between October 2010 and March 2011. A summary of the results, impacts of and reaction to that pilot can be found in the February 2011 IDM report entitled 'Food waste pilot next steps recommendation'.
5. Our survey work has shown that residents in the pilot area overwhelmingly support the introduction of food waste recycling and feel that their waste services have improved. The survey work has also shown that residents have welcomed commingled recycling and the additional opportunities they have to recycle their waste.
6. Further improvements that have been made to the service following the food waste pilot include:
 - Food waste collections commingled recycling and fortnightly refuse collections have been continued within the pilot area. Affected properties have been given a new supply of food waste bags, with the quantity supplied reflecting results from resident feedback from the initial pilot.
 - The bags supplied have been altered so that they no longer have handles. This has reduced costs and reflects feedback that very few residents actually hung the bags up whilst filling them.

- A six month pilot of food waste collections from blocks of flats (covering 95 properties) is now under way on Friern Road, East Dulwich, with participants using communal bins installed outside their blocks.
- To ensure we are operationally prepared for any introduction of blue bins and in order to respond to some of the feedback from the pilot, a trial is to take place on a representative street within the pilot area, with blue boxes and bags being switched for blue wheeled bins on an opt-out basis. A limited number of bins are also being made available to those who have requested them.

Commingled Recycling

7. It is a requirement of the Waste Minimisation Policy as reflected in the Waste PFI contract that all street-based properties be converted from source separated to commingled recycling services by the end of 2011, as has already happened for those properties in the food waste pilot area. The conversion of collections for street-based properties is currently scheduled for autumn 2011, in preparation for the operation of the Old Kent Road waste facility in early 2012.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Recycling performance

8. Based on evidence from the pilot scheme, it is anticipated that the implementation of this report's recommendations will improve the borough's recycling rate by between two and five percentage points (see table in Paragraph 7 below). This will be the result of both increased participation in the recycling schemes and the collection of higher volumes of food waste for recycling due to the expansion of the area covered.
9. This table shows estimates for the likely range of increase for the recycling rate as a result of the recommendations of this report. It is difficult to confidently predict the likely recycling yield from any service improvement as many factors can come into play. These projections are based on the food waste pilot performance. The highest likely improvement is based on the recommendations in this report leading to same recycling levels as those in the pilot area, the lowest likely improvement is if the recycling improvement is half that of the pilot improvement. The properties covered by the food waste pilot were predominantly those with gardens and so will not be fully representative of all street-based properties in the borough. This means a direct extrapolation of the pilot performance is unlikely to be accurate but the ranges given are a useful indicator of likely performance.

	Current performance (street-based homes)		Lowest likely improvement		Highest likely improvement	
	%	Tonnage	%	Tonnage	%	Tonnage
Dry recycling	24.1%	7,176	27.4%	8,178	30.8%	9,180
Food recycling	9.4%	2,787	16.3%	4,866	23.3%	6,945
Refuse	66.6%	19,843	56.3%	16,777	46.0%	13,711
Total		29,806		29,806		29,806
Additional recycling (tonnes)				+3,081		+6,162
Effect on borough-wide recycling rate				+2.8%		+5.6%

10. As detailed in the IDM report (Food Waste Pilot Next Steps Recommendations) of 1st March 2011, resident feedback from the food waste pilot area has shown that food waste recycling is very popular (96% of respondents in favour), and that the new services have been very well received and are easy to use (84% rated the new services either better or much better than previous). In addition, the switch to fortnightly refuse collections has been successful, with the vast majority (86%) of residents responding to our survey reporting more than sufficient capacity in their wheelie bin for the new frequency.

Fortnightly collection for refuse and dry recycling

11. It is proposed that the waste collection provision for street-based properties will change so that residents will now have two collections each week. This is proposed in order to take advantage of the efficiency opportunity that arises from the food waste roll out. It is proposed that food and garden waste be collected weekly, with dry recycling and refuse collected separately on alternate weeks. Households will have four waste collections each fortnight instead of the five collections they currently receive. The tables below show how these will work and show the current services for reference

Benefits to residents in street-based properties:

- Residents will be able to recycle more. All street-based properties will be able to recycle food waste and tetrapaks as well as all the items they currently recycle.
- Residents will be able to mix all their recycling together for collection and will not have to sort different materials into different containers
- Residents will be able to use wheeled bins for their recycling collections which are cleaner, safer and usually more convenient to use than boxes and bags.

Benefits to the borough:

- The borough’s recycling rate is expected to increase by between two and five percentage points as a result of these recommendations
- The changes enable necessary budget savings to be met.
- The changes make the waste service more efficient which has environmental as well as cost benefits because two fewer collection vehicles will be on the borough’s roads.

Proposed service:

Week 1	Week 2
Brown bin - Food and garden waste	Brown bin - Food and garden waste
Blue bin - Dry recycling (paper, card, glass, cans, plastics, tetrapaks)	Green bin - Refuse (any remaining waste that can’t be recycled)

Current service configuration:

For the food waste pilot area:

Week 1	Week 2
Brown bin - Food and garden waste	Brown bin - Food and garden waste
Blue box and bag - Dry recycling (paper, card, glass, cans, plastics)	Blue box and bag - Dry recycling (paper, card, glass, cans, plastics)
	Green bin - Refuse (any remaining waste that can't be recycled)

For all other street based properties:

Week 1	Week 2
Green bin - Refuse (any remaining waste that can't be recycled)	Green bin - Refuse (any remaining waste that can't be recycled)
Blue box and bag - Dry recycling (paper, card, glass, cans, plastics)	Blue box and bag - Dry recycling (paper, card, glass, cans, plastics)
Brown bin -garden waste	

12. Changes to collection frequencies may raise some particular service specific concerns:

- Fortnightly refuse collection issues

Although there were concerns in the pilot area (in particular regarding odours, pests and the capacity of a 240 litre bin to contain a fortnight's waste) the service has in fact been very popular and very few residents have needed a larger bin.

- Fortnightly recycling collection issues

This is a new service change and was not part of the food waste pilot. Residents may be concerned that they will have less space to store their recycling although this is not the case (see paragraphs 14 and 15).

It is not expected that dry recycling (which is paper, glass, cans etc) will cause any issues with odour or pests if collected fortnightly, because of the nature of the waste and because blue bins provide much more effective containment of waste than boxes and bags.

- Blue wheeled bin issues

Some street-based properties may not have space outside for a blue wheeled bin. Wherever this is the case, we will ensure that a recycling service is still delivered, either through use of smaller wheeled bins or by continuing to collect from blue boxes in these cases.

13. To address these and other anticipated concerns about the proposals, a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs), attached at Appendix One, have been put together. These are based on the FAQs used in the food waste pilot with extra points added to address concerns regarding fortnightly recycling and blue bins. As in the food waste pilot, we will be responsive to residents' needs and flexible about the type of container provided to residents wherever possible, for example by supplying larger containers where needed or collecting from blue boxes in cases where a blue bin cannot be accommodated.

14. The current blue box and bag receptacle combination provides a combined capacity of 90 litres to street-based properties for a weekly recycling service. As part of the planned conversion to a commingled service, it is recommended that we use 240 litre wheeled bins for recycling.

Comparison of current and proposed services configurations:

Waste Type	Receptacle	Capacity	Frequency
Current services, capacities and frequencies:			
Resident separated recycling (Paper, cardboard, glass, cans, plastics)	Blue box and bag	90 litres	Weekly
Garden waste	Brown wheeled bin	240 litres	Fortnightly
Remaining waste	Green wheeled bin	240 litres	Weekly
Proposed services, capacities and frequencies:			
Commingled recycling (Paper cardboard, glass cans, plastics and tetrapaks)	Blue wheeled bin	240 litres	Fortnightly
Garden and food waste	Brown wheeled bin	240 litres	Weekly
Remaining waste	Green wheeled bin	240 litres	Fortnightly

Recycling receptacle effective capacities

Current		Proposed	
Blue box and bag weekly collection	90 litres combined capacity	Blue wheeled bin fortnightly collection	240 litres capacity
Total effective fortnightly capacity:	180 litres combined	Total fortnightly capacity:	240 litres

15. The 240 litre bin would provide 33% extra capacity compared to the blue box and bag combination over a two week period. In addition, removing the requirement to separate out different materials will also serve to save significant space in the receptacle. We believe that this solution will offer more than sufficient capacity for a fortnightly recycling service, were it to be introduced. Even so, extra capacity would be available to any properties who found that they needed more than 240 litres per fortnight.
16. The introduction of 240 litre wheeled bins would also remove the current operational problem of dividers and bags which regularly go missing and need to be replaced. Wheeled bins are also much cleaner, with far less scope for spillages or interference from pests, and safer for both residents and our crews, removing the need to bend down and pick up potentially heavy boxes.

17. 240 litre bins for a fortnightly recycling collection have already been introduced to two London authorities – Harrow and Sutton. Whilst it is recognised that these boroughs are very different to our own, on the common issue of bin capacity both have found that 240 litres of recycling capacity per fortnight meets their residents' requirements. Harrow have reported that only a very small minority of their affected residents have requested additional capacity. Sutton stock 360 litre bins for larger families, but report that they have very rarely ever been requested. Recycling rates for Harrow and Sutton are amongst the highest in London, at 46% and 37% respectively.

Communications and Feedback

18. The survey work from the food waste recycling pilot showed that the communications used in the pilot were well received and that the vast majority of residents both understood and liked the scheme. The majority of respondents to the survey said the letter and leaflet they received had been informative (over 90% of respondents) and had contained about the right amount of information (approximately 80% of respondents). As a result, it is proposed that we will base the communications for further service changes on this feedback and will ensure that all likely concerns are addressed. In addition, we will conduct surveys to assess each affected street's suitability for different types of bins in advance of the changes and we are about to begin pilot blue bin collections to ensure all operation aspects of the service run smoothly. As with the pilot scheme, we will carefully monitor feedback and complaints to ensure that any issues that do occur despite the careful planning and management of the changes are resolved swiftly and effectively.
19. The service changes will be introduced in October or November 2011 with the exact date (to be fixed in July) depending on a number of factors including the availability of processing facilities and operational considerations.

Policy Implications

20. The recommendations support the Council's aim to increase recycling and to reduce service delivery costs.

Financial and Resource Implications

21. No additional resources are required for the roll-out of the food waste recycling service. The pilot scheme has demonstrated that the scheme can be funded through the savings made in landfill disposal costs as a result of higher levels of recycling and waste prevention.
22. The switch to fortnightly recycling collections for street-based properties allows us to deliver the budget savings of £375k spread over three years, as outlined in the Budget Report to Full Council on 22 February 2011.

Community impact statement

23. All potentially affected properties already receive collections of separated waste streams. The recommendations in this report would change the configuration of those collections, and allow residents to recycle more of their waste. Wheeled bins for recycling collections are cleaner and safer, for both crews and residents, than the blue boxes currently provided. The council will continue to provide assisted

collections wherever requested, along with the bulky waste collection service for any items not suitable for a wheeled bin.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

24. The key legal responsibilities of the council in relation to waste collection are set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 ("the 1990 Act").
25. The Council is a Waste Collection Authority ("WCA") under Part II of the 1990 Act. As such, s.45 of the 1990 Act imposes a duty on WCAs to make arrangements for the collection of household waste within their area.
26. S.45A was inserted into the 1990 Act by the Household Waste Recycling Act 2003. Under s.45A WCAs must ensure that they make arrangements for the collection of at least two types of recyclable waste separately from the rest of the residual household waste. There are two exceptions to this requirement, namely that the cost of doing so would be unreasonably high, or comparable alternative arrangements are available. The requirements of s.45A took effect on 31 December 2010, unless a later date was agreed with the Secretary of State.
27. Positive equalities obligations are placed on local authorities, sometimes described as equalities duties, with regard to race, disability and gender. Race equality duties were introduced by the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 which amended the Race Relations Act 1976. Gender equalities duties were introduced by the Equality Act 2006, which amended the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. Disability equality duties were introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 which amended the Disability Act 1995.
28. With particular regard to the Disability Discrimination legislation, the Council must ensure that that disabled people do not find it impossible or unreasonably difficult to use waste collection services and should make reasonable adjustments, such as assisted collections, where necessary.
29. Equality impact assessments are an essential tool to assist councils to comply with our equalities duties and to make decisions fairly and equalities and human rights impact assessments that are carried out should be mindful of the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.
30. The decision to approve the recommendations set out in this report falls within those decisions which are reserved for decision by Individual Cabinet Member under Part 3D of the council's constitution.

Finance Director

31. This report seeks Cabinet Member for Transport Environment and Recycling's approval to
 - Roll out food waste recycling services (including fortnightly refuse collections) to all appropriate street-based properties across the borough, to coincide with the planned switch to commingled recycling for all street-based properties in Autumn 2011.

- Change the collection frequency for commingled recycling from street-based properties to fortnightly, from the current weekly provision
32. There will be no additional resources required for the roll out of food waste recycling. Savings of £140k were approved by the Council in February from changing the collection frequency; approval of this report will allow the necessary changes to be made to achieve these savings.

APPENDICES

Appendix No.	Title
1	Frequently Asked Questions
2	Container Pictures

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Gill Davies, Strategic Director of Environment	
Report Author	Ian Smith, Acting Head of Sustainable Services	
Version	Final	
Dated	25 May 2011	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Finance Director	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer	25 May 2011	

Appendix 1

Frequently Asked Questions

General service frequently asked questions

1. What are the proposed changes that are being introduced?

Food:

The weekly food and garden waste collection, which allows residents to separate their food waste and send it for composting, is being introduced borough-wide for all street-based properties to increase recycling in Southwark following a successful pilot covering 10,000 properties.

Recycling:

We are providing a blue wheelie bin for residents' other recycling (paper, cardboard, glass, cans, plastics and now tetrapaks) which can now all be mixed together. These changes will make recycling easier and we are able to do this because our new waste facilities at the Old Kent Road will include a materials recycling facility where the materials can be sorted before being sent for reprocessing.

We will empty the blue bin each fortnight. This change is being made to make the service more efficient and to save money. Residents will still have plenty of space for their recycling because the bin can hold a much bigger volume than the blue box and bag combined (the blue bin has an almost identical width and larger height and depth compared to the blue box).

Rubbish:

We will collect the remainder of residents' rubbish, which cannot be recycled, each fortnight. This change is being made because the 'smelly' rubbish – food waste – is collected weekly and their green bin should only need emptying every fortnight if they recycle their other waste. This change, along with the introduction of food waste recycling, has already been made as part of a pilot for 10,000 properties in the borough. Residents living in the pilot area have overwhelmingly favoured the changes, with 96% of residents in favour of food waste

recycling and 84% of residents feeling their waste service had improved as a result of the changes.

2. Why are these changes being made to services?

Food

The food waste trial was introduced in response to requests from residents who asked about the possibility of the council offering this service. On top of that, traditional landfill waste disposal costs are rising. For example, landfill tax has increased by 75% in the last 3 years, and will increase by a further 43% in the next 3 years. 10 years ago, the tax was £12 a tonne. Today, it is £56 a tonne, and by 2014 it will be £80 a tonne.

Therefore there is an increasingly pressing need to reduce waste going to landfill. The food waste collection service targets residents' waste, of which it's estimated at least two thirds is recyclable, but currently ends up as landfill.

Recycling

Moving to a fortnightly recycling collection will save the council money, with fewer trucks on the road at any one time, but with little change to the actual service other than the frequency of the collections.

At a time when there are considerable savings that have to be made across the council, the local authority will save £375,000 over three years through more efficient ways of collecting recycling.

The new changes should increase our recycling rate.

At present Southwark recycles over 25% of its waste but the council wants to increase that to over 40%. Although there has been a big increase in recycling in the last few years the council believes there is still a lot it can do to improve it further with residents help.

The council has calculated that these changes alone could result in an increase in our borough's recycling to a level as high as 30%, from the current 25%, which is about an extra 6,000 additional tonnes that would have gone to landfill. Evidence for this stems from studies of the pilot scheme, where the recycling rate in the pilot area is now 54% compared to an average 33% for other street-based properties.

Other changes, such as the arrival of the Integrated Waste Management Facility on the Old Kent Road in January 2012, will help raise the recycling rate even further.

Rubbish

We are collecting rubbish every fortnight at these properties because, as has been identified on the food waste pilot, there is a greatly reduced level of waste that needs to go into the rubbish bin. The 'smelly' rubbish – the food waste – is collected weekly and the green bin should therefore only need to be emptied every two weeks.

3. When are collection days? Is there a calendar?

All collections will take place on the same day of the week. Garden and food waste will be weekly and other recycling and refuse collections will be every other week. We will write to all households who will be affected by these changes a month in advance and we will then deliver calendars to all homes a week before any changes are made.

4. What was the food waste recycling pilot scheme?

The pilot covered approximately 10,000 homes in Dulwich, Nunhead and Peckham Rye, Camberwell and Rotherhithe community council areas and ran for six months before becoming a permanent scheme from April 2011. Food and garden waste is collected each week and refuse is collected each fortnight. Blue box collections were weekly. During the pilot we carefully reviewed its impact in the areas, listened to what residents had to say, and monitored the effect on recycling in the borough.

The scheme was successful and popular. Full details on the pilot scheme can be found at <http://www.southwark.gov.uk/foodwaste>.

5. Are estates on the new scheme?

Only properties that currently have kerbside collections for recyclables will be involved in the proposed changes. Estate homes that use the clear bag collection service or communal recycling bins are not affected.

6. Where do residents place their containers on collection day?

There is no change to where residents should leave their containers. As now, their bins should be placed at the front of their property by 6am on their collection day.

We can also provide residents, with their own brown or blue bins for storing food and garden waste or other recycling.

7. Will the extra bins provided for the pilot clutter the highways?

Properties are being assessed for storage and will be provided with either a small or large brown bin, depending on what can be stored at each property. If preferred, small brown bins

can be stored inside and presented on collection day to keep outside spaces clear. Blue boxes can still be used where there is no space for blue bins and these can be stacked if extra capacity is needed.

Brown bin frequently asked questions

1. What can residents put in the brown bin?

In the brown bins, residents can put all of their food waste and garden waste. Food and garden waste currently makes up around a third of the weight of an average Southwark resident's bin.

Residents will be able to put the following in their brown bin;

- Cooked or raw meat, fish and bones
- Fruit and vegetables
- Bread, pasta and rice
- Eggs and dairy products
- Tea bags and coffee grounds
- Plate scrapings
- Plants, twigs and branches
- Grass and leaves
- Paper soiled by food

They should not put any of these in their brown bin;

- Plastic bags or liners
- Flower pots or trays
- Soil, stones or bricks
- Japanese knotweed
- Large tree branches (more than 10cm/4 inches thick)
- Furniture, fencing, MDF or treated wood
- Glossy paper

For inside their home, we will provide residents with compostable bags to collect their food waste. These can be put directly in the brown bins.

If residents would like one, we can provide a small caddy for them to use in their kitchen and residents can line this with the compostable bags provided.

2. Won't food waste collections smell and cause hygiene problems?

Inside the home, we will give residents compostable bags to collect their food waste to reduce smells and hygiene problems.

The brown bin is designed to contain food waste securely to prevent pests. If residents don't have a brown bin already for their garden waste we can supply a smaller brown bin which will also securely contain their food waste when it is outside. Residents should try to keep the lid of their bin closed and if possible keep the bin out of direct sunlight. Residents should not overfill the bin so that the lid won't shut completely. Leaving the lid open may encourage pests. If residents need another bin they can contact us.

Food and garden waste bin will be collected every week the same as previous traditional bin collections that contained food.

3. Can plastic bags be used instead of compostable bags in the caddy?

No, only compostable bags, like the ones that will be provided can be used. The compostable bags provided may look like plastic bags but they are made from natural materials such as corn starch that break down into good quality compost. Plastic bags from supermarkets may be labelled as biodegradable but they are not compostable. Our crews will not be able to collect residents' food and garden waste if they put plastic bags into their brown bin.

4. Can residents use bags labelled 'biodegradable'?

No, most of these are probably still made of plastic. They break down into tiny pieces so they don't cause unsightly litter problems and are better than 'normal' plastic in landfill, but they still contaminate compost. These can be purchased in supermarkets but are rarely given away as carrier bags.

5. What happens if residents run out of compostable bags?

If residents run out of compostable food waste bags, they can contact us and also order a free kitchen caddy that can be used with the bags to collect food waste in their kitchen.

6. What will happen to residents garden and food waste?

It will be collected weekly by our crews and taken to a waste transfer station, then onwards to a licensed composting facility specialised in handling garden and food waste. It will be composted into agricultural soil improver.

7. Can residents still use their composter?

Yes home composters can still be used as usual. But residents can use their new food waste collection for waste that should not be composted at home such as meat, fish and dairy products.

Blue bin frequently asked questions

1. Why are the blue bins being emptied once a fortnight?

This change is being made to make the service more efficient and to save money. Residents will have more space for their recycling because the bin can hold a much bigger volume than the blue box and bag combined (although it has a similar width)

2. What are the benefits of mixed recycling collections?

Mixed recycling collections mean that residents don't have to separate their recycling, saving time and saving space. This also allows us to provide collection services for more properties.

3. Do residents still need to separate any of their recyclables or use the box, divider or bag?

No, the improvements mean that residents won't need to separate any of their recycling that they put in the blue bin. All the materials can be mixed together. We will separate it after collection. If residents feel they don't have space for the blue bin, we will work with them to solve any problems; we may still be able to collect from their blue box or we may be able to provide other containers that solve any issues that residents have.

Residents can recycle;

- Paper and cardboard; newspapers and magazines, catalogues and brochures, greetings cards, junk mail and flyers, paper and envelopes, directories and yellow pages, card and cardboard (residents should remove plastic packaging and polystyrene and flatten), shredded paper (residents should put in a used envelope or paper bag)
- Glass; bottles and jars (any colour – residents should remove lids and rinse)
- Metal cans; food tins, drink cans, aerosols, foil (rinsed), large biscuit and sweet tins, metal lids
- Plastics; plastic bottles (rinsed and squashed), plastic tops, plastic food trays, margarine tubs, yoghurt pots (rinsed)
- Tetrapaks (e.g. juice cartons)

See our [A to Z of waste](#) and recycling for details on other materials and ways to recycle in Southwark.

4. What happens to the mixed recyclables after collection?

We take all residents' recycling to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), where it is sorted into separate materials by state-of-the-art machinery before being sent on to reprocessors to be

made into something new. For example, a resident's plastic bottle could be made into a fleece jacket.

5. What if residents can't fit all their recyclables in the blue bin?

Residents can request an additional bin by emailing environment@southwark.gov.uk or calling 020 7525 2000. We will also always collect any recycling that won't fit in the blue bin, in an untied carrier bag or open cardboard box and put beside your blue bin. If residents still have concerns about fitting their recyclables into your blue bin, they can contact us as there may be other ways we can help.

Green bin frequently asked questions

1. Why is the refuse service every other week?

By introducing a weekly food and garden waste service, nearly all waste that smells will still be collected weekly. Southwark's recent waste audit showed that two thirds of residents' waste is recyclable. With separate collections for food and garden waste and blue bin recyclables, only a third of residents' waste will need to be collected in their green bin. This should meet most people's needs if the recycling services are used.

2. What should residents put into their green refuse bin?

Items that can't be recycled and should therefore be put into the green refuse bin are;

- Plastic film, cellophane
- Plastic bags
- Nappies
- Polystyrene

The green bin is designed to contain your waste securely and prevent problems with pests or odours. See our webpage which has some helpful tips on how to reduce waste. (www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200276/how_to_reduce_waste)

3. What do residents do if they produce more waste than they can fit in their bin?

If they are using the recycling service fully they will have a lot less waste to put in their green bin. If for any reason they find they can't fit all their remaining waste in their bin, they should contact us to arrange a visit from one of our Recycling Support Officers who will be able to help. Contact environment@southwark.gov.uk or call 020 7525 2000.

If they need to throw away bulky items like fridges, furniture and mattresses, we will collect them for free with the [bulky waste collection service](#) (please visit refuse collections page).

4. How can residents reduce their waste?

There are many ways that residents can reduce their waste from 'smart shopping' to reusable nappies for their baby. Please visit our web pages for more hints and tips;

Appendix 2 - Container pictures



Typical container combination for street-based households under the current system.

Households may also have a blue bag for paper recycling and boxes come with lids and dividers to separate different types of recycling.



Typical container combination for households who have space and requirement for all three wheeled bins.



Typical container combination for households who have either no space for a large brown bin or no garden waste.

The 23-litre brown bin is for food waste only (and other types of garden-type waste such as cut flowers).

For residents with a back garden but no space for a large brown bin, single-use garden waste sacks and re-usable green bags will continue to be available for garden waste recycling.



Typical container combination for households who have either no space for a large brown bin or no garden waste and no space for a blue wheeled bin.

The 23-litre brown bin is for food waste only (and other types of garden-type waste such as cut flowers).

All recycling can be mixed together in the blue box. There's no longer any need for a divider in the box. Boxes can be supplied with lids and extra boxes are available so that boxes can be stacked if households need extra space for recycling.