

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This should be carried out during the development stage of a new project, strategy, policy or service or when you are reviewing an existing project, strategy, policy or service.

By understanding and meeting people’s differing needs we can provide more effective services.

Name and brief description of project, strategy, policy or service being assessed

The Waste services provided by the Council which includes refuse, recycling, food waste and garden waste service are all a statutory function derived from the Environmental Protection Act 1990 which meets the Councils’ own environmental aims to keep the district clean and green. The service also meets the requirements of the County wide Inter Authority Agreement, in which the County Council is the waste disposal authority.

In 2011/12, the Council managed approximately 58,000 tonnes of household waste. Its current collection arrangements are as follows:

- Fortnightly collections of residual waste, dry recycling and green waste from approximately 57,000 properties
- Weekly collections of food waste from approximately 57,000 properties.
- Weekly collections of residual waste from approximately 6000 flats
- Weekly collection of residual waste from approximately 1,200 trade customers
- Weekly collection of dry recycling waste from approximately 240 trade customers
- Glass collections from bring banks (150 banks)
- Delivery of on-demand bins (180, 240, 360 & 1100) to customers (domestic and trade) plus food bins
- Delivery of on-demand bags (refuse, recycling for both domestic and trade)

The Council’s Operations is currently delivering a series high profile strategic projects that are vital to the successful delivery of some of the Organisations corporate priorities for:

Place:	Keeping our district clean and tidy	Performance:	Providing value for money
	Protecting our environment		Delivering excellent customer service
			Improving our services through innovation

A number of these key projects, which are inter-related, will lead to fundamental service change, to achieve a long-term solution for the management of waste services and provide improved customer service and response times, are as follows:

- Integration of commercial and domestic collections (involving in-cab technology and re-routing).*
- Building trade recycling customer base.*
- Door-stepping recycling campaign to target low and non-participating households .*

The amalgamation of these projects is informally known as the Integrated Commercial and Domestic Collections Project (ICDC).

The ICDC will also put in place the necessary vehicle technology for the waste collection vehicle fleet and associated desktop software solution to support the operational and back-office management of the system. This solution will adapt to and support the proposed changes to how the council collects its waste, providing a safe, reliable, flexible and efficient platform for the council's needs. This is key to supporting the projects detailed above.

This project will affect the majority of the residents in the district as to achieve the aims of the project routes will be rescheduled to allow for the integration of both commercial and domestic collections.

Information used to analyse the impact on people affected by the project, strategy, policy or service

State who will be affected, the relevant information you are using to assess how it will affect them, note any relevant consultation, surveys, etc.,

The service is delivered as follows:

Residual and garden waste is collected fortnightly in 180 litre wheeled bins. Larger or smaller bins are provided on request, dependant on set criteria (e.g: larger bins for large families or smaller bins for single elderly residents). Flat-blocks and communal housing are provided with 1100 litre bins for residual waste and a variety of bins for recycling, depending on individual site needs. Residual waste is collected weekly from flat-blocks and communal areas.

Dry recycling is collected in clear sacks, a supply of which is delivered to all households on an annual basis. Additional clear sacks for recycling are readily available on request via a free phone number, the council offices town libraries and some parish council offices.

Food waste is collected weekly in 23 litre food caddies from all low-rise (houses) properties.

A chargeable bulky waste collection service is also provided (via TREE) and the Council provides over 150 recycling centres (bottle banks, textile and paper banks) located at strategic points throughout the district.

The collection of residual and recycling trade waste is scheduled in agreement with the customer, depending on their needs. The customer is charged for this service and it is delivered using a range of bins for residual waste and clear sacks (different from domestic sacks) for recycling.

The frequency of collections will remain unaffected by the implementation of the project, however, the majority of residents in the district will be affected as to achieve the aims of the project routes will be rescheduled to allow for the integration of both commercial and domestic collections.

The changes to the service which will arise from the implementation of the ICDC project, including the changes to collection day will be communicated to all residents using a range of mediums. The residents will receive letters and leaflets through their doors, social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter will be used. All ward and parish Councillors will be kept fully up to date with all relevant information, and where required, Officers will visit residents to explain the changes.

Use the information above to assess the impact of your project, policy, strategy or service on people from the following protected groups: (these are defined by the Equality Act 2010)

Protected Group		Positive Impact/ Benefit	Negative Impact/ Disadvantage	Explanation – State how
Age	Children 0-16	n/a	No	
	Young People 17-25	n/a	No	
	Ages 26-59	n/a	No	
	Older People 60+	n/a	YES	Elderly or infirm residents may experience difficulty in physically presenting their bins/containers at the kerbside for collection.
Disability Include disabled people and/or carers	Blind/Partially Sighted	n/a	YES	Disabled residents may have difficulty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physically presenting their bins/containers at the kerbside for collection. • Reading or understanding literature • Understanding service requirements
	Deaf/Hearing Impaired	n/a		
	Wheelchair user/mobility difficulties	n/a		
	Learning Difficulties	n/a		
	Mental Health Difficulties	n/a		
Gender	Men	n/a	No	
	Women	n/a	No	
	Transgender	n/a	No	

	Pregnancy & Maternity impact	n/a	Yes	Single women in the latter stages of their pregnancy may have difficulty in presenting their bins/containers at the kerbside for collection
	Marriage & Civil Partnership	n/a	No	
Race	White	n/a	No	Potential language barriers if English is not the first language in the household, causing difficulty in understanding instruction.
	Asian	n/a	No	
	Black	n/a	No	
	Mixed Dual Heritage	n/a	No	
Religion/Belief	Buddhist	n/a	No	
	Christian	n/a	No	
	Hindu	n/a	No	
	Jewish	n/a	No	
	Muslim	n/a	No	
	Sikh	n/a	No	
	Other – please specify			
Sexual Orientation	Lesbian Gay men Heterosexual Bi-sexual	n/a	No	
Other (optional)	Use to define Impact on any groups specific to this Strategy, Policy or Function not listed above.			

If you identified any negative impacts above then either:

(a) Your proposal, policy or service is treating people from a protected group above less favourably because of their age, disability, gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation

or

(b) Your proposal, policy or service is intended to treat everyone equally but, unintentionally, people from a protected group above can be particularly disadvantaged or treated less favourably than other others ✓

PLEASE TICK WHICHEVER APPLIES

If you ticked (a) this is direct discrimination, which is illegal and you cannot proceed

If you ticked (b):

- 1. Can any negative impacts be minimized or removed? If so state what changes you will make.**
- 2. If you cannot minimize or remove negative impacts they must be justified and you must state your justification**

“Assisted” collections are available on request for elderly or disabled residents which allow them to leave their bin in a fixed place and the crew will collect the bin/recycling sacks and return the bin to where it was collected from.

Literature detailing collecting dates and recycling information is available in larger print or audio format upon request. Where language is a barrier to understanding, whereby English is not the first language spoken in the household, we would seek the assistance of community associations, where there may be a resource available to us for translation. If practicable, we would seek to provide the documentation in the first language spoken by the household.

In situations where the literacy skills of the residents are low, the Officer would clearly outline and detail the information that is to be communicated. Audio format could also be made available if requested.

Officers will visit premises where residents are having difficulty using the service i.e. sheltered accommodation.

If you identified any positive impacts is there anything further you can do to increase or extend the positive benefits? If so state what changes you will make:

Under the auspices of both the Councils 'Safeguarding' and 'Active Citizens' initiatives, we have trained and actively encouraged our staff to identify and report those residents that may benefit from assistance or active, positive intervention. This will enable us to assist those residents, who may not normally seek assistance or do not know how or where to communicate their requirements.

Completed By: Nick Johnson

Approved By (Senior Manager)

Service: Operations

Date :

Each service should retain the signed copy of the Assessment.

An electronic copy should be sent to angve@braintree.gov.uk for publication on the Council's website – this is a requirement to ensure that we meet our statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010.