



Report to: PPIC - 25th November 2024
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Report Summary	
Report Title	Update for Kerbside Glass Recycling Scheme
Purpose of Report	To inform members of the current performance and future risks of the glass recycling project
Recommendations	That the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee note: a) the current status of the project; and b) Officers to provide further updates where required.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 A kerbside glass recycling collection commenced on Monday, 8 April 2024 following 8 weeks of distributing wheeled bins to residents across the district. A total of 41,212 bins were delivered by the sub-contractor of the bin manufacturer over this time period.
- 1.2 By default, we opted out all of the residents from the area covered by local charity Recycling Ollerton Boughton but gave those residents the option to opt in to the Newark & Sherwood District Council (NSDC) scheme. At the same time, we gave all other residents the option to opt out of the scheme.
- 1.3 5.3% of residents from the non-ROB area had opted out at the time of the distribution and 11.6% of ROB residents had opted in. This resulted in a slightly lower uptake (circa 3,000) than expected based on our initial modelling . The distribution teams had lists of these exceptions as well as assisted collections to ensure the bins were taken onto the property. We were contacted by a small number of properties that were missed during the rollout so we delivered to these at the earliest opportunity through a combination of our own teams or mop up teams from the contractor. Unfortunately, the rural nature of some of the district did occasionally prove problematic to the teams who had travelled from Great Yarmouth and Essex to carry out the deliveries.
- 1.4 The kerbside scheme has been running for over 7 months with all residents receiving 4 collections by the end of week commencing 11 November 2024.

- 1.5 The introduction of the kerbside collections coincided with the gradual removal of the 42 bottle bank sites from across the district. These 'igloo' style containers were the property of the Glass Recycling UK (GRUK) so they put in a programme to remove these following a meeting with officers in the middle of March. As there were between 1 and 8 banks across each of the 42 sites and they could only remove 3 or 4 per journey, the gradual removal took around 3 months to complete.
- 1.6 There were 8 high performing sites that were identified as suitable to be replaced with our own specially designed and colour matching 4 wheeled containers (figure 1), and these were delivered as soon as we were aware that the bottle banks had been removed by GRUK.
- 1.7 We collected 65% of the total volume of glass from these 8 sites with the other 34 sites combined yielding the other 35%.

Figure 1



2.0 Details of Current Performance

Operational Performance

- From April to October 2023, 831.27 tonnes of glass was collected from bottle banks for recycling.
 - From April to October 2024, 1259.5 tonnes has been collected from our transfer station as well 93.74 tonnes collected from bottle banks during the period that they were being phased out (collected by the contractor), a total of 1353.24 tonnes.
- 2.1 This is an increase of **62.8%** in the amount of glass collected over the 7 month period compared to the same period last year.
 - 2.2 The amount of material being collected over each 8-week cycle has been increasing and we collected 100 tonnes more in the last full cycle compared to the first one. This is likely to coincide with the distribution of the containers which replaced the bottle banks.
 - 2.3 The tonnage collected so far is following the expected tonnage of the higher estimate of an 80% capture rate which would yield 2,400 tonnes per annum.
 - 2.4 It is also worth noting that we have not experienced a Christmas / New Year period yet. Previous years have seen an increase in glass collected in bottle banks of 25-30% in January.

Collections

- 2.5 To minimise any noise issues, the glass collection crews are starting later than other waste teams to delay the time that the first bin is being emptied. The number of negative comments or complaints have been very low and where concerns are raised, we have looked into ways the crews can vary the starting point of their round to lower the occasions from once every 8 weeks to once every 16 or 24 weeks.
- 2.6 We have been regularly adding properties and flat complexes over the past 6 months which were not initially included as part of the roll out. We deliberately built in capacity to expand the service to future proof for further housebuilding and as the glass vehicles cover all parts of the district already, adding more properties is usually a quick process of updating maps, notifying crews and updating the online bin-check calendars.
- 2.7 We are currently planning the implementation of delivering glass bins to the remote access properties such as farms. There are around 150 properties that have their waste collected with a 7.5t van with a bin lift. Some of these properties have only recently moved from a weekly refuse collections using bags, to alternate week recycling collections with wheeled bins. This change was made to ensure a sustainable and consistent service was provided to all. Providing glass bins will promote this even further and divert even more material from landfill.

Infrastructure

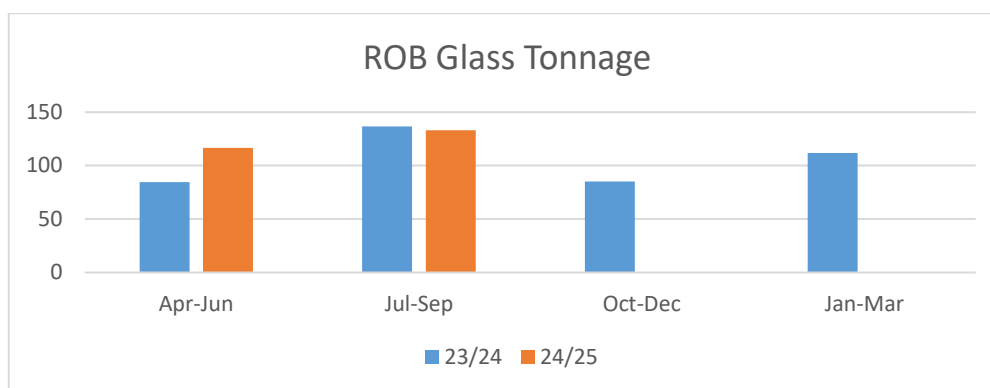
- 2.8 The glass transfer station was completed prior to the collections starting with very positive feedback by all users including the glass hauliers who have been collecting the glass.
- 2.9 The Environment Agency visited for the first time on the 17th May where they assessed the site and the details of the permit to ensure compliance. The report from the visit was very positive with no issues raised.

Contamination

- 2.10 Historically, glass has consistently found its way into the silver bins and from April 2023 to August 2023, this typically accounted for 8.2% of the contamination per month. Over the same period this year, it has halved to 4.1%. This suggests that the glass is being diverted from the silver recycling bin to the teal lidded glass bin. The amount of glass in the silver bins was already low at 0.9% of the total weight collected but this has fallen to 0.5%.
- 2.11 There have been no issues of contamination in the glass loads that are collected from the transfer station. The feedback from our contractor is that the quality is excellent and well below the 5% threshold.

Recycling Ollerton & Boughton (ROB)

- 2.12 As part of the consultation relating to the scheme, we promoted ROB as an option for all of those households that are able to receive that service. To help support any increase in requests for their glass service, we have funded the purchase of 1000 boxes. For the first half of this year, there has been an increase of 11% in the tonnage collected from ROB's depot.



Commercial Glass Collections

2.13 The glass recycling service was launched for trade customers in June 2024 following numerous requests and enquiries. The service is expanding quickly with 6 new customers in the last 4 weeks bringing the total number of customers receiving this service to 28. This brings in an income of £3,293 from the collections plus we receive the income from the sale of the glass. We cannot claim recycling credits for any commercial glass that is collected.

Financial implications – Recycling Credits

2.14 Recycling credits (glass only)

April	£8862.75	(83.28t kerbside + 43.06t bottle banks x £70.15)
May	£11,519.33	(136.76t kerbside + 27.45t bottle banks x £70.15)
June	£13,440.04	(168.36t kerbside + 23.23t bottle banks – 1.28t trade x £70.15)
July	£9839.24	(142.96 kerbside - 2.7t trade x £70.15)
August	£17,858.79	(258.08 kerbside – 3.5t trade x £70.15)
September	£9,891.15	(143.4 kerbside – 2.4t trade x £70.15)

Summary

2.15 The roll out of the glass recycling service has been a success with all key project milestone taking place on time as outlined in the project plan which was presented to Cabinet in February 2023.

2.16 In addition to the budget forecast highlighted in section 3.0, there were also savings in capital expenditure with the procurement of bins and vehicles plus an increase in the income generated from the sale of the glass which, combined, brought in the project significantly under budget.

2.17 Despite a slightly lower uptake of the service from households than expected, the yield captured from participating households has compensated for this by being better than predicted with significant amounts of additional material being captured. We anticipate that yields will peak over the festive period.

2.18 Work is continuing to ensure all households can access the service in one form or another and commercial customers are beginning to take up the new service where it is advantageous for them to do so.

3.0 **Implications**

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications FIN24-25/2080

- 3.1 As the Glass Collection Service is very much still in its infancy; an accurate budget prediction was always going to be a difficult task, however; it comes with good news that each line of anticipated expenditure budget has come in either on target or below, for the first 6 months anticipating a favourable variance for outturn. Naturally, there have been savings in Vehicle Repair and Maintenance as the vehicles were new and under warranty.
- 3.2 The reduction in the pay award settlement originally predicted at 5% was settled at £1290 or 2.5% which ever was higher. Having said this, the Employers NI increase offset this saving and so resourcing this service is on target.
- 3.3 The table below shows a summary of what we anticipated the Budget for 2024/25 to look like and how we are matching up to this, doubling up on what we know in the first 6 months, as well as showing the MTFP for future years. This table shows an anticipated favourable variance in 2024/25 of circa £30,000.

	24/25 BUDGET	24/25 FORECAST OUTTURN	25/26 BUDGET	26/27 BUDGET	27/28 BUDGET
Number of Bins (both Non ROB and ROB)	44,021	41,212			
Uptake from Residence in the ROB Area	13.34%	11.60%			
Total Tonnage (for both Non ROB & ROB)	2,184	2,052			
Total Tonnage for Bring sites	499	499			
Recycling Credit per Tonne	£69.11	£70.15			
Sale of Glass per Tonne	£82.50	£82.50			
Expenditure					
Staff (4 drivers & 4 loaders)	£279,660	£279,520	£279,510	£287,890	£296,530
R&R - Transfer Station	£2,500	£2,500	£2,500	£2,500	£2,500
R&R - 2.5 Vehicles	£20,000	£20,600	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000
R&R - Operational Contamination	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Clothing, Uniforms, PPE	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000
Vehicle Running Costs	£120,000	£70,000	£123,600	£127,310	£131,130
Bin Replacement	£30,000	£30,000	£30,000	£30,000	£30,000
	£459,160	£409,620	£462,610	£474,700	£487,160
Income 93131					
Income Generated from Glass Recycling	(£221,400)	(£210,500)	(£225,830)	(£230,350)	(£234,960)
Additional Recycling Credits	(£151,000)	(£144,000)	(£154,020)	(£157,100)	(£160,240)
reduction in recycling credits for bring sites	£34,490	£35,000	£35,000	£35,000	£35,000
	(£337,910)	(£319,500)	(£344,850)	(£352,450)	(£360,200)
TOTAL INCOME & EXPENDITURE	£121,250	£90,120	£117,760	£122,250	£126,960
(FAVOURABLE)/UNFAVOURABLE against orig. budget		(£31,130)			

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.