

Report sponsor: Director of Public Protection
and Streetpride
Report author: Head of Service, Refuse and
Streetpride

Waste Services update

Purpose

- 1.1 Councils have faced significant pressures through the covid 19 pandemic and have demonstrated flexibility and creativity to ensure residents are supported with as little disruption to services as possible. Waste services are no exception and pressures due to staff shortages along with national shortages of HGV drivers have presented significant challenges.
- 1.2 Changes to the operating model of the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) through the pandemic have evolved into a new operating model which has enabled health and safety measures to be put in place to reduce the impact of the virus, whilst allowing data to be captured on usage and demand.
- 1.3 The Council's Streetpride cleansing service provide bulky waste collections at the kerbside and are responsible for the clearance of fly tipping in the city.
- 1.4 The purpose of the Council's waste service is to enable residents to dispose of their waste responsibly and in a sustainable way. The Communities Scrutiny review panel have asked for information on fly tipping and waste to better understand the correlation and impact in the city.
- 1.5 This report therefore seeks to update scrutiny on the data and impact outlined above along with an update on educational and campaign work taken place to support residents and national context around strategy changes and future considerations.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the content of the report and provide feedback to the service.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 This report is set out to update the panel on the national picture around waste whilst also responding to the request for information around whether there is a correlation between HWRC opening times and booking system and fly tipping.

- 3.2 Waste services are delivered in the backdrop of a global pandemic, which continues with the current Omicron variant, to significantly increase risk and reduce capacity in the service; and within the context of long-term financial challenges faced by local government.
- 3.3 The council set out its priorities following the impact of covid 19 in the recent Recovery Plan which is supported by the Medium-Term Financial Plan. To balance the budget, services including waste have identified ways of operating more efficiently. Some of the information in this report highlights changes made to improve the service and operate within a reduced budget. Changes to the waste budget have taken place through the budget setting process and reported on.

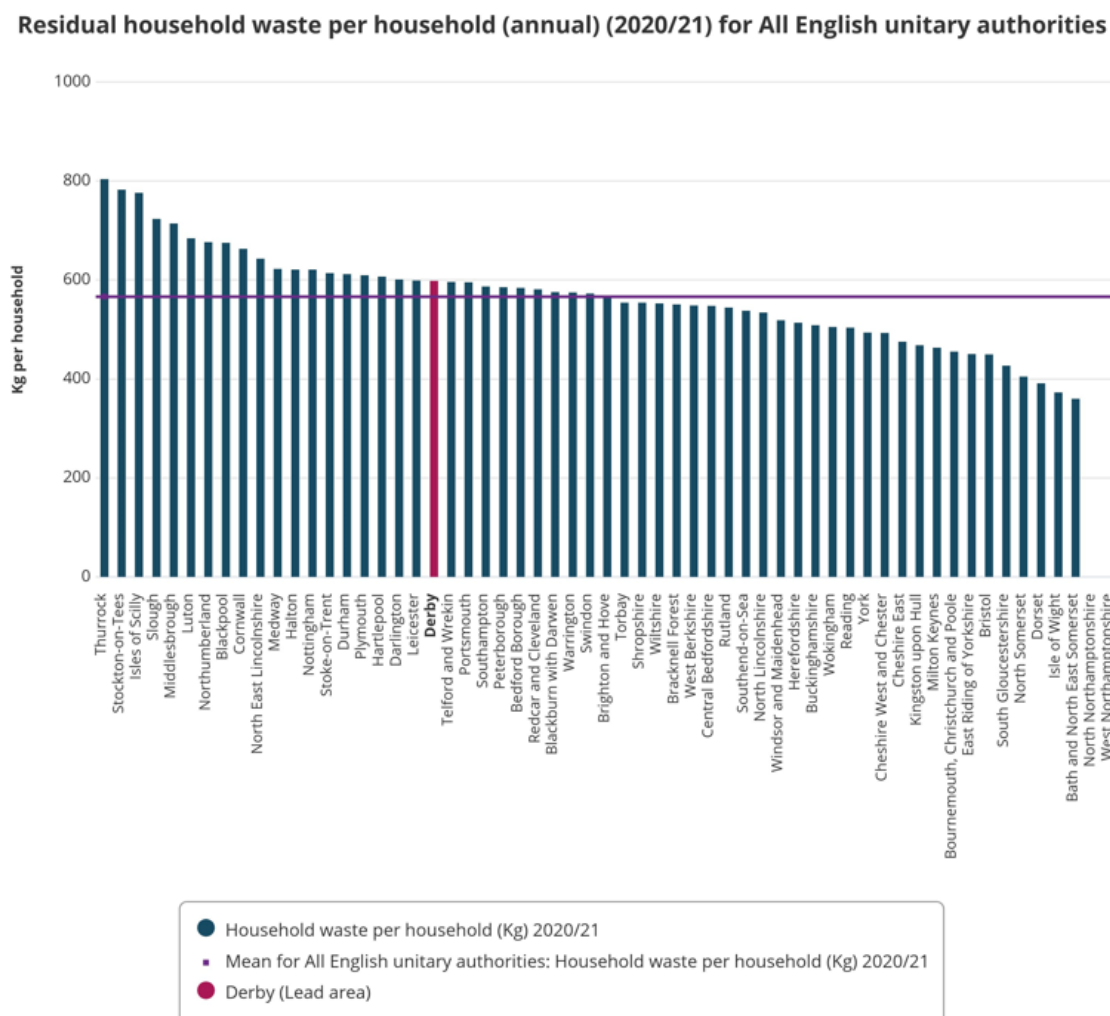
Supporting information

National context

- 4.1 In 2018 the government released its Resources and Waste, A Strategy for England, which contained a number of areas for consultation. The two main areas for waste services to consider and prepare for are separate food waste collections and consistency of collections. Guidance has not yet been issued.

- 4.2 Food waste in Derby is currently comingled with garden waste and collected in the free brown bin service. All other recyclables collected are collected in the blue bin. Non-recyclable waste is collected in the black bin. Nationally it is reported that households produce on average over half a tonne of waste per year. Fig 1 below shows the national picture with Derby highlighted.

Fig 1: Household waste tonnages per household



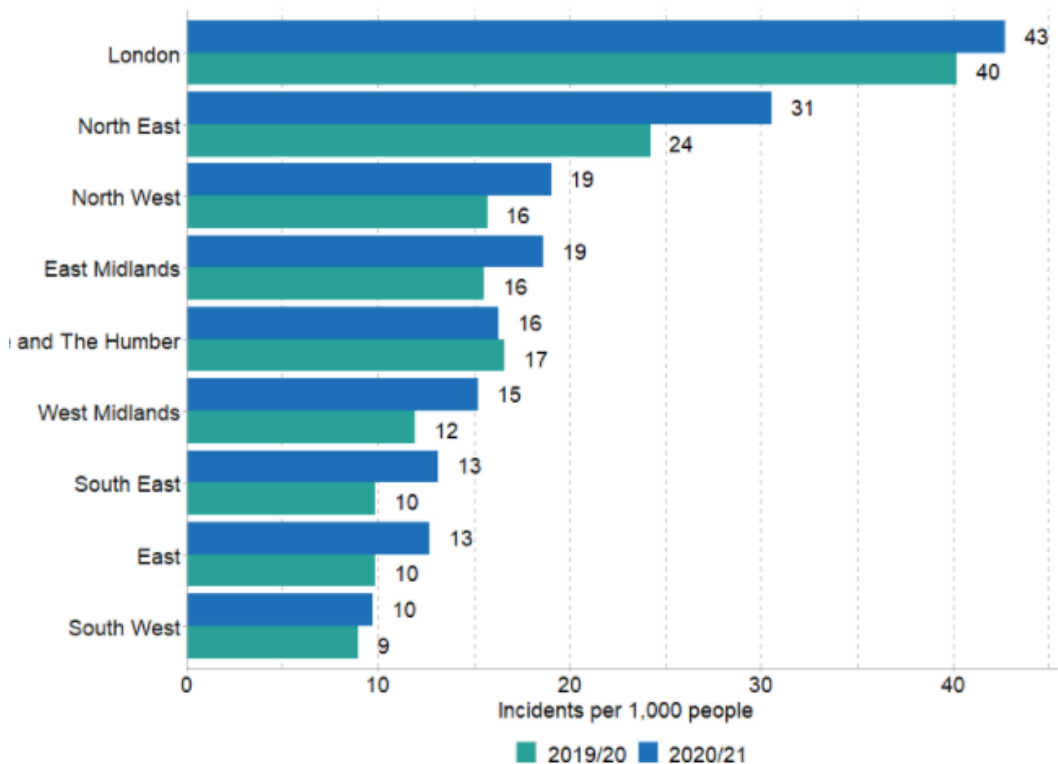
Source:
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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- 4.3 To achieve consistency of collections in England all waste streams will need to be standardised. If this happens it could see Derby having to change the waste collection model in all waste streams. This could result in capital investment in collection containers and fleet along with changes to staffing resource. With so many potential options councils are not able to model the future at this time but need to be prepared to do so when further guidance is released.
- 4.4 Nationally fly tipping has increased 18% from 957,000 to 1,134,000 from 2018/19 to 2020/21 according to Environment Agency statistics (available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fly-tipping-in-england/fly-tipping-statistics-for-england-2020-to-2021>).

- 4.5 In the East Midlands there are a reported 19 fly tipping incidents per 1,000 people. Which is in the mid-range nationally. The highest being London at 43 per 1,000 people. This is demonstrated in fig 2 below:

Fig 2: Fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 people in England by region



- 4.6 A recent study by Wrap in June 2021 considered whether restrictions at HWRCs (in this case charging for certain waste streams) increases fly tipping. It found no link between the two. However, the model did show that deprivation is a major influencing factor within urban areas which is something we know Derby has its fair share of (image below). Numerous studies have been carried out to better understand fly tipping and what drives people to do so, in an effort to tackle this national issue.

Zero Waste Scotland (source: [Evidence Review of Flytipping Behaviour.pdf](https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/evidence-review-of-flytipping-behaviour.pdf) ([zerowastescotland.org.uk](https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk))) were able to condense the main motivators for fly tipping into specific conditions in relation to:

- Local waste services (e.g. convenience, charges),
- Local environment characteristics (e.g. levels of urbanisation, economic deprivation),
- Attitude and knowledge (e.g. level of guilt; duty of care obligation),
- Household characteristics (to a limited degree).

Similarly, evidence by Keep Britain Tidy chimed with that of Zero Waste Scotland. It identified a number of varied and deep-rooted behavioural reasons which are too complex to generalise, but many of which fit with the areas of Derby where we experience higher levels of fly tipping. For example, students were one group identified, another was those living in smaller accommodation such as shared houses and flats.

By understanding these reasons, the motivators and behaviours, it is possible to take meaningful action towards tackling fly tipping.

Local context

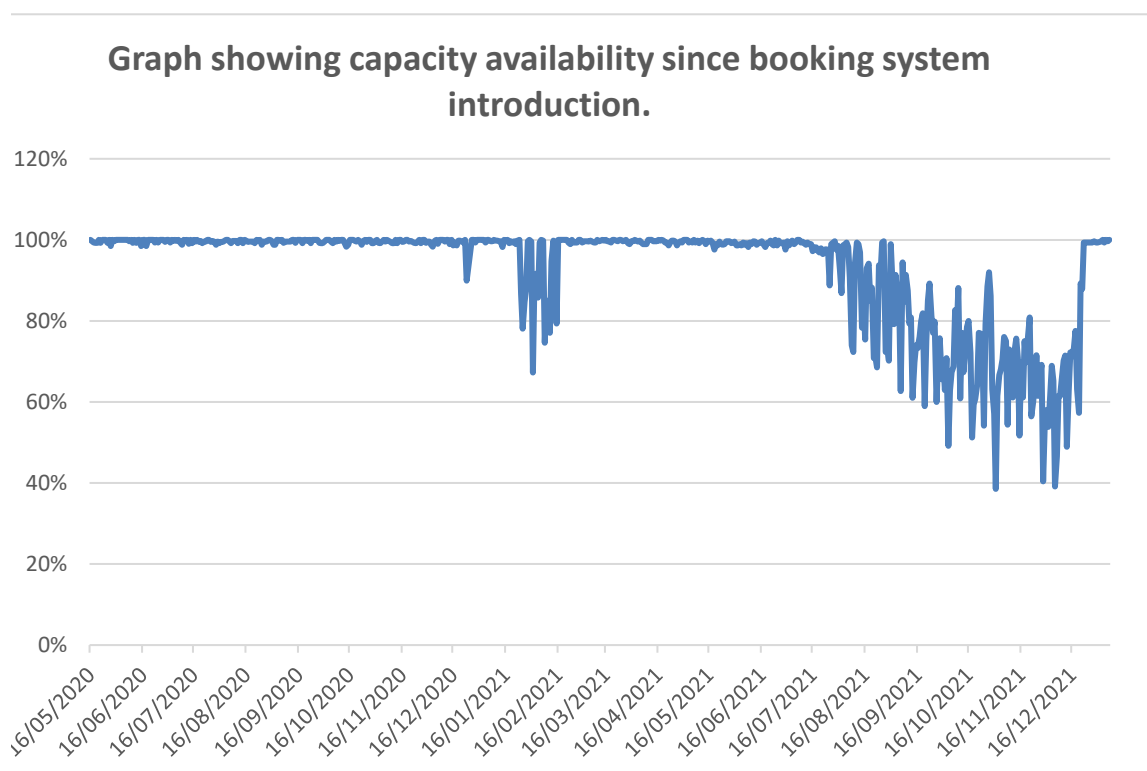
- 4.7 In Derby changes were made to the HWRC with implementation of covid measures and a booking system which was approved in December 2020 and reviewed in November 2021. Communities Scrutiny has discussed the need to review data over a longer time period to understand the impact of the booking system and this is being kept under review.
- 4.8 Recommendations made by Executive Scrutiny to increase accessibility to the site by enabling bicycle access were accepted and implemented in December 2021 with a designated meet and greet area for cyclists to deposit waste.
- 4.9 Reports presented to Communities Scrutiny in July and September 2021 detailing information about Public Protection Officers (PPOs) and Streetpride developments generated conversations around waste collection and fly tipping. Both reports provided some data on fly tipping with PPOs being called to 1,394 fly tipping incidents with an average of 19.3% of service requests leading to enforcement action and Streetpride reporting a 26 % increase in fly tipping in 2020/21. The Streetpride report noted that most cases of fly tipping were proactively identified and cleared by crews and not reported by residents.
- 4.10 The Council operates a kerb side bulky waste collection system which is mainly used by residents to dispose of items that are too large for their kerb side bin, such as furniture and white goods, but can also be used for multiple black bag clearances. Throughout the pandemic the bulky waste service was increased to provide capacity when the covid restrictions caused the HWRC to have to close. This increased service received a good take up and continued after the pandemic.

- 4.11 At Raynesway HWRC a booking system was modified in July 2021 to allow 12 bookings per calendar year from Derby and Derbyshire households, this was reviewed in a report to Council Cabinet in November 2021.

Prior to this, there was a significant proportion of bookings which were not attended which was blocking customers from accessing the HWRC.

Since July, there has been a change in the available capacity, with the exception of known pinch points, such as the Christmas and bank holidays. This, along with the data in fig 3 below suggests the controls are working, freeing up capacity for those with household waste should they wish to make use of the facility. It is acknowledged however that the data needs to be monitored over a longer period.

Fig 3: HWRC availability:



- 4.12 The report to Communities Scrutiny in September showed that fly tipping in Derby has increased by 26% from 19/20 to 20/21. So far in 21/22 this trajectory has continued with a 14% increase in cost and a 0.1% increase in cases to September 2021 which is better than the national picture for cases.

4.13 Bringing all available data together into Fig 4 below there are some clear peaks and troughs visible. Visits to the HWRC dropped to zero along with tonnes of waste collected in April 19 with the covid restrictions and have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. A new wave of the Omicron strain will undoubtedly have a further impact on residents isolating and may reduce the use of the site further.

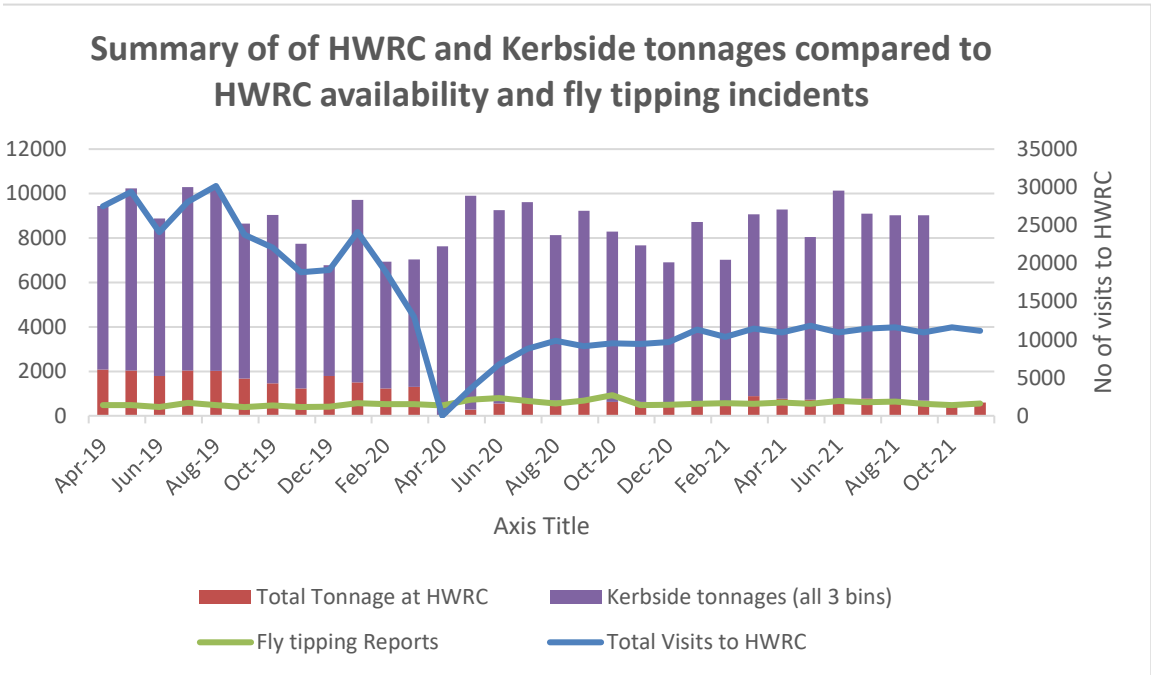
In terms of kerbside tonnages, there are many variables in the data with home working thought to have an impact in increased kerbside tonnages from April 2020.

A spike in the fly tipping data line in October 2020 has been analysed by the service and correlates to the implementation of the new Whitespace system which enables real time reporting and scheduling for front line crews. This will have generated an inconsistency in the change over from paper sheets to the technology but has levelled out since the implementation has been completed.

Using a technology bases system for street cleansing will continue provide robust and accurate data going forward.

Trends in fly tipping in Derby city do not differ from the national picture where there has been a year-on-year increase. There is however some stability this year with no significant growth in annual fly tipping increase from last year.

Fig 4: All waste and fly tipping comparison



Enabling residents to dispose of their waste responsibly

- 4.14 To support residents with information on how to dispose of their waste correctly Streetpride Waste Minimisation Officers carry out educational visits to schools along with a number of campaigns. School talks is one of them.

Although this work has been on hold of late due to the pandemic, the team were able to get back into a school and visit ten classes just prior to the end of the 2021 school year. The workshops were based on the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Composting Champions and Is Plastic Fantastic?

These workshops contain both practical activities and group discussion. Since then, the team has contacted approximately 40 schools to offer the service and have started to receive bookings.

A number of other changes and initiatives have taken place to support waste and recycling as follows:

- The garden and food waste scheme was introduced in April 2019 in two phases, residents who already has a brown bin received the service first with a further 20,000 bins delivered through June and July
- In July 2019 an opt in dry recyclable collections were introduced to the areas within Normanton, Arboretum and Mackworth that had previously been removed. This has produced some good quality material from the area.
- In April/May 2020 capacity was increased within the bulky waste service to allow additional bookable spaces for residents. This increase has been well received by residents with a good uptake.
- In November 2020 Whitespace was introduced within street cleansing. This system enabled work to be sent directly to the in-cab technology which allows work to be completed quicker, and to move work from one team to another instantly whilst providing an audit trail and produce reports to enable modelling and heat maps on issues to be produced.
- In October 2021 a policy change was made to make all recycling containers free to make it easier for residents to recycle more and dispose of their waste in a sustainable way.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 In October 2021 the waste strategy team facilitated workshops with elected members and officers across the council to explore some challenges around waste in Derby and identify key areas to focus on for the future.
- 5.2 Taking a future look at waste strategy the team have been reviewing feedback from the strategy sessions, analysing data, and looking for good practice to increase recycling, reduce waste and reduce fly tipping in the city.

- 5.3 The Council has a joint waste strategy with Derbyshire County Council which will need to be refined when updates are received from the consultations and papers associated with the Waste and Resources strategy for England. This presents an opportunity to update the strategy and approach based on the learning identified within this report.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 The financial detail associated with changes in waste has been reported in the Medium-Term Financial Plan and associated reports.

Legal implications

- 8.1 Disposal authorities are required by section 51 (1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to provide a facility for residents to deposit their household waste.
- 8.2 The Council collects waste in line with the Waste Framework Directive and under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA). The EPA places a statutory duty to provide waste collection and requires the council to determine the most appropriate container for collections.
- 8.3 Public Protection Officers provide a visible enforcement presence in the city and have powers to enforce against antisocial behaviour, environmental crime, and breaches of Public Spaces Protection Orders.
- 8.4
- The Environmental Protection Act 1990
 - Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
 - Public Spaces Protection Orders
- The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020
- 8.5 Street cleansing functions including fly tipping removal are carried out within the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse 2006

Climate implications

- 9.1 Sustainable waste disposal and waste reduction are key elements of the climate response and any strategy or policy created within waste will be done in collaboration with the Council's climate change team.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal Finance Service Director(s) Report sponsor Other(s)	Samantha Dennis	14/01/2022

Background papers: List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Breakdown of fig. 4 graph.
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Appendix 1 - Breakdown of fig. 4 graph.

