

Local Authority Waste Managers COVID-19 Briefing

April 8, 2020 11:00 am – 11:30 am

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Themes

Our webinar today will cover the following themes:



◆ Workforce

Resourcing challenges and keeping your workforce healthy.

◆ Service Delivery

Prioritising services.

◆ Fly tipping and Litter

Managing fly tipping and litter collections.

◆ HWRCs

Status of HWRCs.

◆ Treatment and Disposal

Available capacity.

◆ Changing behavior

The impact of changing behavior on quantity and composition.

◆ The Future

What will the next 6-12 months mean for the sector?

◆ Guidance

Signposting to relevant guidance.

Workforce

Resourcing challenges arise from a number of issues

Staff absences – sickness, shielding
WISH estimates 15 – 50%

Social distancing

reduction in the number of staff in the cab

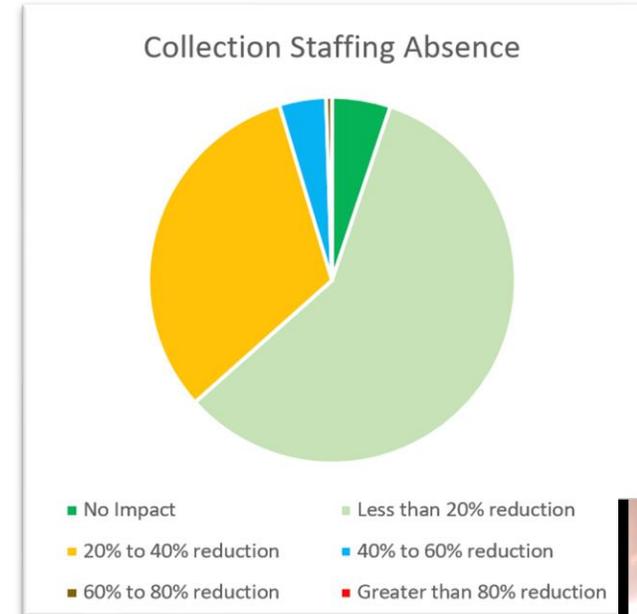
Newcastle City Council – using passenger transport

Reconfiguring mess areas

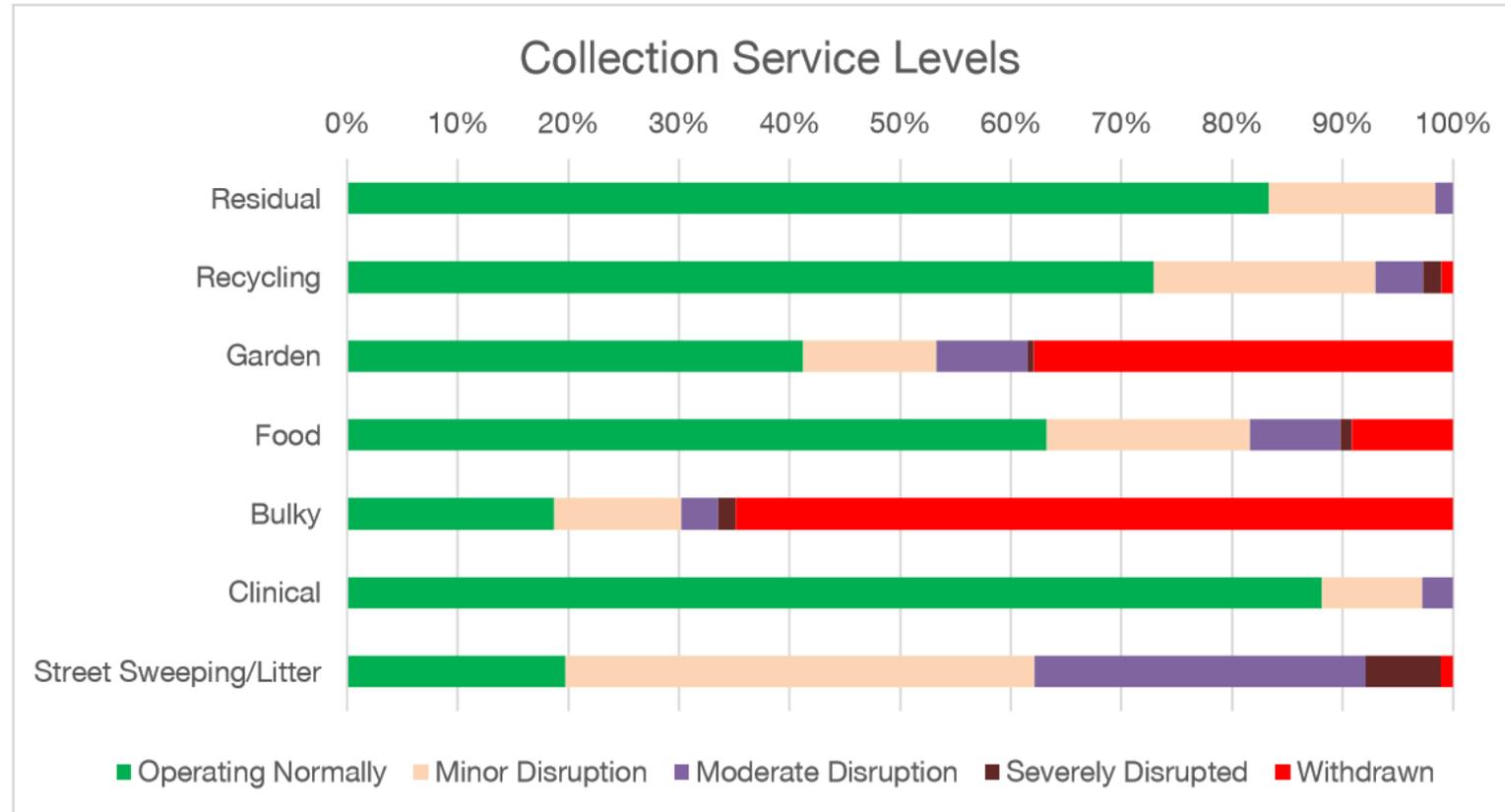
Consistent collection rounds and staff

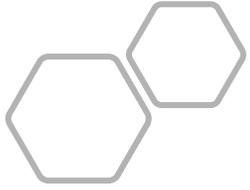
Redeployment

In Tameside, Greater Manchester, grounds maintenance staff are now working in waste and recycling, while library staff are working in the contact centre to deal with the increase in calls.



Service Delivery - Collections





Defra Guidance – Service priorities

High

- Residual waste collections, Food waste collections
- Fly tipping
- Clinical waste, care homes, assisted collections

Medium

- Dry recyclables (Fortnightly)
- HWRCs
- Bring sites (low to med)
- Trade waste collections

Low

- Dry recyclables (Weekly)
- Garden waste
- Bulky waste collections
- Replacement containers



COVID-19 WASTE UPDATE

If you can help, please wipe down the handles and lids of your bins when you put them out and again when you bring them in. Let's do what we can to stop the virus spreading.



CORONAVIRUS SAFE DISPOSAL OF WASTE

If you have symptoms of Coronavirus or confirmed to have Coronavirus, all personal waste (such as used tissues) and disposable cleaning cloths:

- Must be placed in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full.
- The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied.
- Store securely and keep separate from other waste for **72 hours**. Waste should not be stored in communal waste areas.
- After **72 hours** place the bag in your usual external general waste bin.

Please clean the handles and lid of your bin before and after you put it out to keep our operatives safe and stop the spread of COVID-19. Make sure you wash your hands after retrieving your bin.

Hebburn resident's legal action over garden waste collection

2 hours ago

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Coronavirus pandemic



A resident is taking legal action against his council for suspending garden waste collections during the coronavirus outbreak.

Mike Smith, from Hebburn, has made a claim for the money he paid for the service because he could not get an answer about when it would resume.

South Tyneside Council said it halted the collections to concentrate on critical frontline services.

HWRCs

HWRCs overloaded the weekend before the lockdown

- Deputy leader of Hampshire County Council Rob Humby said: "Last weekend over 29,000 people visited Hampshire HWRCs - to put that into context, our busiest Easter bank holiday weekends might see a maximum of 22,000 people"

Social distancing concerns

- Material handling

Is it an essential journey?

- Goes against PHE guidance?

UPDATE ON HOUSEHOLD WASTE & RECYCLING CENTRES

In line with the Government's restrictions, all 14 Household Waste and Recycling Centres will now be CLOSED until further notice.

Kerbside collections of waste and recycling continue, so please place your bags and recycling out for your usual collection times.



Fly tipping and Litter

Is Fly tipping increasing?

Dumping outside charity shops

Leeds (and others) not emptying litter bins



Fly-tipping soars as families clear their houses when recycling centres are closed

[View 11 comments](#)

 **Sam Corbishley** Monday 6 Apr 2020 1:19 pm



5k
SHARES



Caption: Cases of fly-tipping around the UK soars SWNS – Backgrid

Treatment and Disposal

ADEPT reported little disruption across EfW, MBT, Landfill. Effects of Social distancing on operational practices causing the greatest challenges for other facilities
EA restrictions on storage temporarily lifted



Approximately half of WDAs are continuing to operate their Material Recycling Facilities (MRFs) – 43% are operating normally, a further 12% are experiencing minor or moderate disruption.



Two thirds of WDAs (65%) report that they have suspended the use of open windrow composting.

Changing behaviour

Panic buying – now stopped?

Changes to waste composition – increases in card?

How will this change services in the long term?



What does the future hold?

Commercial services

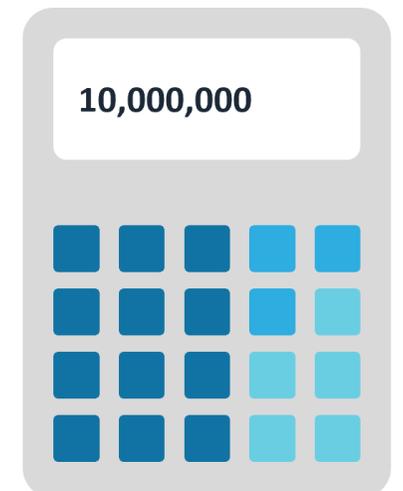
Could we see a sharp decline in revenue?

Time to rethink weight based recycling targets?

Packaging - Single use / refill / reuse

Sanitation questions have arisen again over reusables – no evidence that single use bags are less likely to spread the virus

What happens when society 'restarts'?



Guidance

Where to go for expert advice



Government

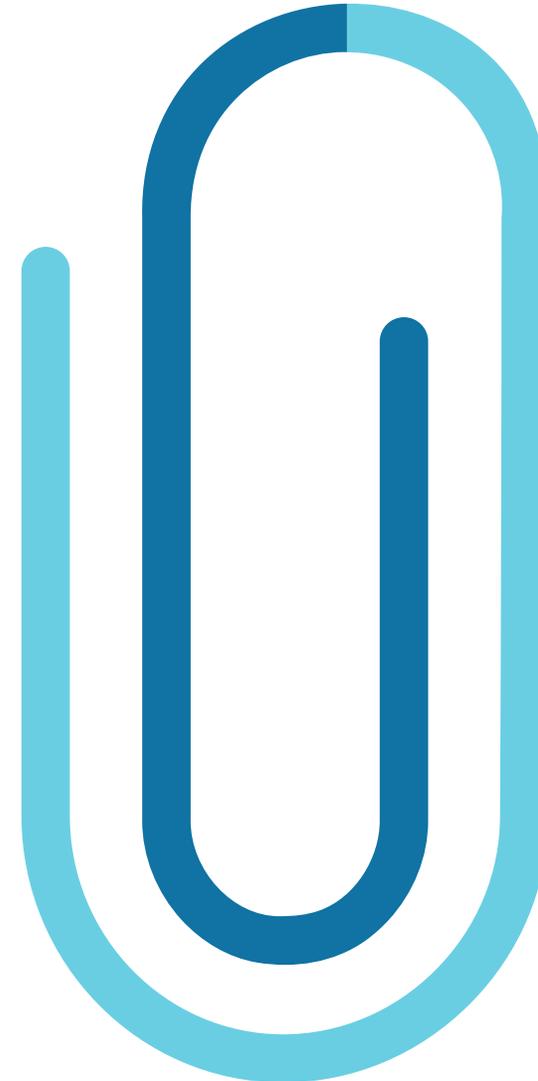
[Guidance on prioritising waste collection services during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#)

<https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/WISH-INFO-13-COVID19-and-waste-management-activities-issue-1-2-April-2020.pdf>



Industry

<https://www.circularonline.co.uk/briefing-papers/coronavirus-update-waste-management-sector/>



Thank you

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