

Place Select Committee

Scrutiny Review of Bring Sites (Recycling)

**Final Report
December 2018**

Place Select Committee
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Municipal Buildings
Church Road
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 1LD

Contents

Select Committee - Membership.....	4
Acknowledgements.....	4
Contact Officer.....	4
Foreword.....	5
Original Brief.....	6
1.0 Executive Summary.....	8
2.0 Introduction.....	10
3.0 Background.....	11
4.0 Findings.....	12
5.0 Conclusion & Recommendations.....	19
Appendix 1: WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) - Optimising Bring Site Provision.....	21
Appendix 2: Bring site collections across Stockton-on-Tees (typical six-month period).....	23
Appendix 3: 7-month total tonnages collected between April 2017 and October 2017.....	24

Select Committee - Membership

Councillor Derrick Brown (Chair)
Councillor Sonia Bailey (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Louise Baldock
Councillor Evaline Cunningham
Councillor Ken Dixon
Councillor Maurice Perry
Councillor Mrs Sylvia Walmsley
Councillor Paul Weston
Councillor Bill Woodhead MBE

Acknowledgements

The Committee would like to thank the following people for contributing to its work:

- Councillor Mike Smith (Elected Member) - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC)
- Jamie McCann (Director of Community Services) - SBC
- Craig Willows (Community Services Manager) - SBC
- Dale Rowbotham (Strategic Waste & Operational Transport Manager) - SBC
- Ed Tannahill (Waste Strategy Officer) - SBC

Contact Officer

Gary Woods (Scrutiny Officer)
Tel: 01642 526187
E-mail: gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk

Foreword

On behalf of the Place Select Committee, we are pleased to present the final report and recommendations following our review of Bring Sites (Recycling).

The impact of human actions on the environment around us is receiving increased attention, and the issue of recycling is a critical consideration in examining the way in which we can reduce waste. Bring sites (in addition to the Council's kerbside offer) are a feature of the Council's recycling provision, and it is important to ensure that the number, location and overall look of these sites is balanced against their usage, and is also mindful of associated factors such as fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour. This review has provided the opportunity to assess the current bring site provision and propose an appropriate future offer.

We would like to thank Council Officers within the Community Services directorate for the in-depth information they provided to the Committee – their knowledge and experience has been an essential ingredient in determining the most appropriate way forward, one which the Committee hope leads to a more efficient and effective bring site offering for residents to recycle.



Cllr Derrick Brown
Chair
Place Select Committee



Cllr Sonia Bailey
Vice-Chair
Place Select Committee

Original Brief

Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?

The review will contribute to the following Council Plan 2018-21 themes and objectives:

Environment and Housing

- Deliver effective environmental services.

What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?

Bring (recycling) sites are defined as areas in car parks and on streets at which Local Authorities or third parties provide containers for the public to deposit recyclable materials.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) currently spend over £16,000 per year to J&B Recycling Ltd to service 19 bring sites within the Borough. Materials accepted at these sites include paper, glass, cans, cardboard, plastic bottles, textiles or a mixture of materials known as 'co-mingled'. Collection frequencies vary depending on the size of the site, ranging from 12 times per month for the largest to once a month for the smallest.

The overall management fee for this service is split between the five Tees Valley Local Authorities on the basis of the number of bring sites they operate. SBC have significantly more than Darlington (3), Hartlepool (3), Middlesbrough (1) and Redcar & Cleveland (3), some of whom have previously examined their provision and subsequently reduced their bring site offer. The current joint contract with the other Local Authorities will end in March 2019, and some Councils have confirmed that they will make their own arrangements once this has expired.

The amount of material collected at each site varies, and there is evidence that some are becoming under-used. In addition, incidences of anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping are increasingly linked to bring sites, and last year around £2,000 was spent on replacement containers due to arson, as well as unknown costs relating to the, on occasions, daily visits to these sites by the Council's street cleansing operatives. With this in mind, and in recognition of the impending service contract situation, it is a prudent time to review SBC bring site provision.

The aim of this review is therefore to:

- Understand current bring site provision across the Borough and establish the extent to which they are used and the costs involved, including geographical variances and associated issues such as anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping.
- Ascertain the impact of any changes to the current bring site provision, specifically costs to the Council and the ability for residents to continue to recycle materials.
- Propose a preferred option for the provision of bring sites in Stockton-on-Tees post-March 2019.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

Where are the Borough's 19 bring sites and what volumes are being collected at each?
What are the trends in usage?

What costs are associated with current bring site provision; how does this relate to each site in the context of what is being collected?

Prevalence of anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping at bring sites - where is this happening and what are the costs to the Council? Have any complaints been received?

Based on the information available, what are the options for future bring site provision?
What is the potential impact of these options in terms of costs to the Council and its aspiration to deliver effective environmental services?

Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:

A more efficient and effective bring site offering for residents to recycle their waste away from home, whilst also reducing the workload on the street cleansing service and anti-social behaviour team.

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the findings and recommendations following the Place Select Committee's scrutiny review of Bring Sites (Recycling).
- 1.2 Bring (recycling) sites are defined as areas in car parks and on streets at which Local Authorities or third parties provide containers for the public to deposit recyclable materials (*WRAP: Bring Site Recycling, 2013*).
- 1.3 Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) currently spend over £16,000 per year to J&B Recycling Ltd to service 19 bring sites within the Borough. Materials accepted at these sites include paper, glass, cans, cardboard, plastic bottles, textiles or a mixture of materials known as 'co-mingled'. Collection frequencies vary depending on the size of the site, ranging from 12 times per month for the largest to once a month for the smallest.
- 1.4 The overall management fee for this service is split between the five Tees Valley Local Authorities on the basis of the number of bring sites they operate. SBC have significantly more than Darlington (3), Hartlepool (3), Middlesbrough (1) and Redcar & Cleveland (3), some of whom have previously examined their provision and subsequently reduced their bring site offer. The current joint contract with the other Local Authorities will end in March 2019, and some Councils have confirmed that they will make their own arrangements once this has expired.
- 1.5 The amount of material collected at each site varies, and there is evidence that some are becoming under-used. In addition, incidences of anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping are increasingly linked to bring sites, and last year around £2,000 was spent on replacement containers due to arson, as well as unknown costs relating to the, on occasions, daily visits to these sites by the Council's street cleansing operatives. With this in mind, and in recognition of the impending service contract situation, it is a prudent time to review SBC bring site provision.
- 1.6 The main focus for this review was to a) understand current bring site provision across the Borough and establish the extent to which they are used and the costs involved, including geographical variances and associated issues such as anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping, b) ascertain the impact of any changes to the current bring site provision, specifically costs to the Council and the ability for residents to continue to recycle materials, and c) propose a preferred option for the provision of bring sites in Stockton-on-Tees post-March 2019.
- 1.7 It was found that there are varying degrees of use across the Borough's bring sites. Strikingly, the Committee noted that the top nine performing sites (based on average tonnage collected) contribute 88% of the total tonnage of material collected.
- 1.8 The Committee were made aware of issues around fly-tipping which results in bring sites being used for general waste disposal, particularly during peak times such as Christmas. The Council, not the contractor, is required to clean up any bring sites where this occurs, and whilst it is difficult to attribute exact costs to this process, staff time and resources are adversely affected. Such misuse has led to the recent closure of the Teal Arms, Ingleby Barwick site,

as well as a request from Asda to remove the Asda Stockton (Portrack Lane) site.

- 1.9 Based on the data presented, a proposal was put to the Committee to retain seven bring sites – this would result in an estimated annual saving of £8,500 (over 50% of the current costs), and would still see the Council collecting over 80% of the total tonnage of material it currently collects. It was acknowledged that such a proposal would see some residents having to travel further to use the remaining bring sites, but that the location of the retained sites (in addition to the privately-managed bring site at Sainsbury's, Bishopton Road) would mean that an effective area-based service could still be maintained.
- 1.10 The Committee were supportive of the proposal, but requested that the projected savings were re-invested into improving the remaining bring sites. Enhancing these sites (ensuring adequate containers, optimum layout, and clear signage), which are likely to see increased usage, also has the potential to prevent problems for other Council departments (e.g. Street Cleansing), which could in turn further reduce time and resource demand. There was also a need for appropriate and timely communication with residents (and Councillors) to outline these changes and re-direct them to the remaining sites, as well as reinforcing the kerbside collection offer.

Recommendations

The Committee recommend that:

- 1) On the basis of the data available, Cabinet endorses the proposal to reduce the number of Council-run bring sites to seven (as identified within the final report), with the projected savings re-invested into improving the remaining sites.**
- 2) A communication plan be devised to inform residents and Councillors of this decision and the implementation period, highlighting the location of the remaining bring sites and reinforcing the kerbside collection offer.**
- 3) Robust data-gathering continues for the remaining Council bring sites to monitor the effects of reducing the existing level of provision.**

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 This report outlines the findings and recommendations following the Place Select Committee's scrutiny review of Bring Sites (Recycling).
- 2.2 The main focus for this review was to a) understand current bring site provision across the Borough and establish the extent to which they are used and the costs involved, including geographical variances and associated issues such as anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping, b) ascertain the impact of any changes to the current bring site provision, specifically costs to the Council and the ability for residents to continue to recycle materials, and c) propose a preferred option for the provision of bring sites in Stockton-on-Tees post-March 2019.
- 2.3 Reflecting these aims, the Committee undertook the following key lines of enquiry:
- Where are the Borough's 19 bring sites and what volumes are being collected at each? What are the trends in usage?
 - What costs are associated with current bring site provision; how does this relate to each site in the context of what is being collected?
 - Prevalence of anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping at bring sites - where is this happening and what are the costs to the Council? Have any complaints been received?
 - Based on the information available, what are the options for future bring site provision? What is the potential impact of these options in terms of costs to the Council and its aspiration to deliver effective environmental services?
- 2.4 The Committee took evidence from representatives of the Council's Community Services team, including the Care For Your Area Service Manager, Strategic Waste & Community Transport Manager, and Waste Strategy Officer.
- 2.5 In addition, recognising the increasing pressure on the Council's finances, it is imperative that in-depth scrutiny reviews promote the Council's policy priorities and, where possible, seek to identify efficiencies and reduce demand for services.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Bring (recycling) sites are defined as areas in car parks and on streets at which Local Authorities or third parties provide containers for the public to deposit recyclable materials (*WRAP: Bring Site Recycling, 2013*).
- 3.2 Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) currently spend over £16,000 per year to J&B Recycling Ltd to service 19 bring sites within the Borough. Materials accepted at these sites include paper, glass, cans, cardboard, plastic bottles, textiles or a mixture of materials known as 'co-mingled'. Collection frequencies vary depending on the size of the site, ranging from 12 times per month for the largest to once a month for the smallest.
- 3.3 The overall management fee for this service is split between the five Tees Valley Local Authorities on the basis of the number of bring sites they operate. SBC have significantly more than Darlington (3), Hartlepool (3), Middlesbrough (1) and Redcar & Cleveland (3), some of whom have previously examined their provision and subsequently reduced their bring site offer. The current joint contract with the other Local Authorities will end in March 2019, and some Councils have confirmed that they will make their own arrangements once this has expired.
- 3.4 The amount of material collected at each site varies, and there is evidence that some are becoming under-used. In addition, incidences of anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping are increasingly linked to bring sites, and last year around £2,000 was spent on replacement containers due to arson, as well as unknown costs relating to the, on occasions, daily visits to these sites by the Council's street cleansing operatives. With this in mind, and in recognition of the impending service contract situation, it is a prudent time to review SBC bring site provision.
- 3.5 Within the *Bring Site Recycling (2013)* guide, WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) included an 'Optimising Bring Site Provision' section (see Appendix 1) which highlighted the potential reasons to review bring site provision:
 - changes that are planned, or have recently been made, to other waste services;
 - outcomes from an assessment of performance at existing bring sites;
 - financial constraints; and
 - a desire to increase working with third parties.

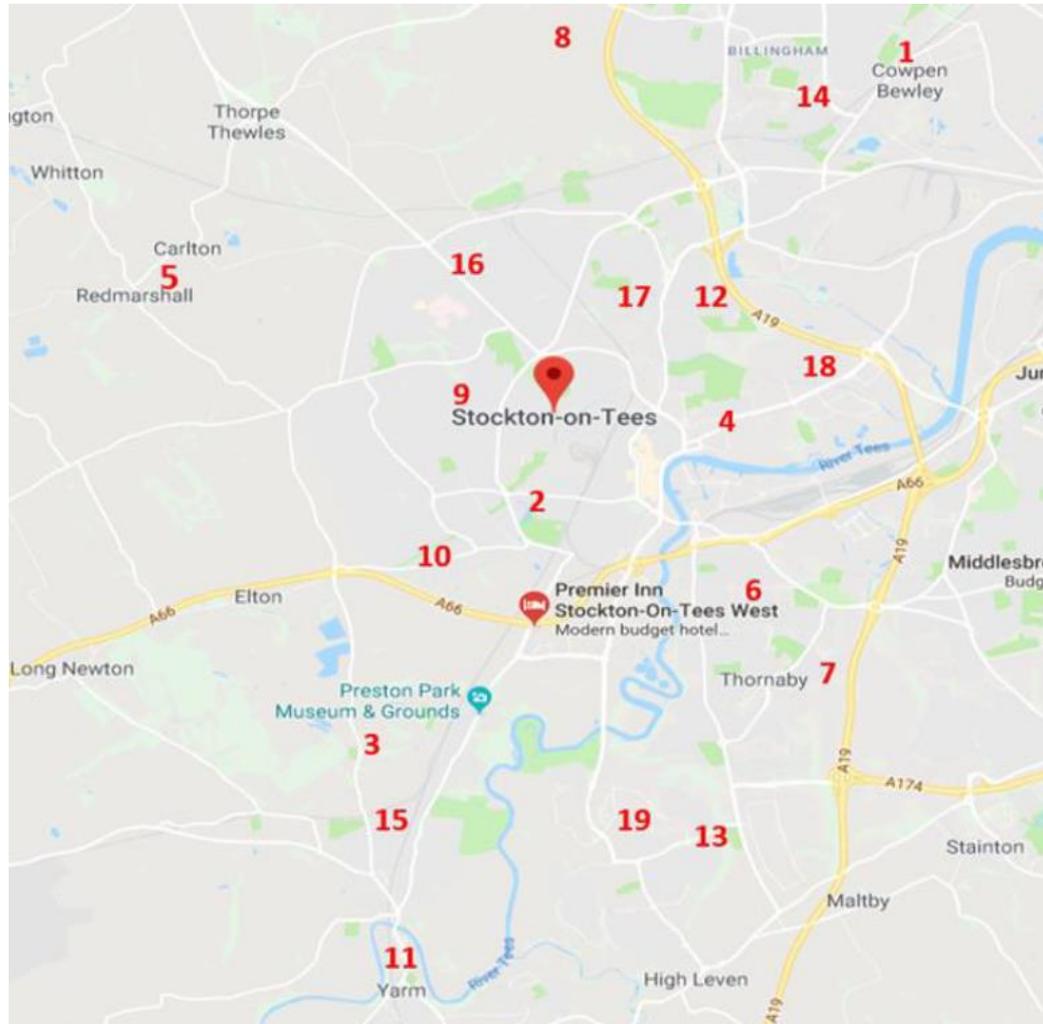
This scrutiny review was principally initiated due to an assessment of performance at existing bring sites, but is also mindful that financial resources need to be used efficiently and effectively by Local Authorities.

4.0 Findings

Current bring site provision across Stockton-on-Tees

Locations

- 4.1 The Committee was informed of the locations of the 19 bring sites within the Borough (see below graphic).



No.	Location	No.	Location
1	Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park	11	Sainsbury's Yarm
2	Newtown Resource Centre	12	Co-op Norton
3	Oakwood Centre	13	Teal Arms
4	Portrack Lane Hotel	14	Tesco Billingham
5	The Smiths Arms	15	Tesco Eaglescliffe
6	Thornaby Sports & Social	16	Tesco Stockton
7	Thornaby Town Centre	17	The Glebe Shops
8	Wynyard Woodland Park	18	Asda Stockton
9	Elm Tree Shops	19	Tesco Ingleby Barwick
10	Harper Parade		

- 4.2 During the course of this review, the bring sites at Teal Arms (13) and Asda Stockton (18) were closed due to demands from the landowners for the sites to be removed due to misuse (see paragraph 4.13).

Service Management Costs

- 4.3 The overall management fee for the bring site service is split between the five Tees Valley Local Authorities on the basis of the number of bring sites they operate. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) has significantly more than Darlington (3), Hartlepool (3), Middlesbrough (1) and Redcar & Cleveland (3), some of whom have previously examined their provision and subsequently reduced their bring site offer. The current joint contract with the other Local Authorities will end in March 2019, and some Councils have confirmed that they will make their own arrangements once this has expired.
- 4.4 As seen in the table below, SBC pay a split of the overall £4,931 monthly management fee to J&B Recycling Ltd.

Local Authority	Tips	Management Fee Split	Material Value	Net
Middlesbrough	177	£781.02	£342.92	£438.10
Redcar & Cleveland	147	£648.64	£474.60	£174.04
Stockton-on-Tees	632	£2,788.71	£1,327.73	£1,360.98
Hartlepool	134	£591.28	£213.47	£377.81
Darlington	28	£123.55	£32.11	£91.44
Total	1,118	£4,931.26	£2,490.83	

(7-month average summary of these fees taken from between Apr 2017 - Oct 2017)

SBC currently account for 57% of the total bring site collections for the Tees Valley, and the average cost after material value deduction is £16,331 per year (£1,360.98 per month) – this is variable depending on the number of collections attributed to SBC.

The above table does not include costs incurred by the Council's Street Cleansing team to clear items left at the Borough's bring sites which should not be there. Some of these sites require daily visits, and although it is difficult to put an exact cost on this work, it does impact on resources (sometimes needing a bin wagon to remove items).

Number of Collections

- 4.5 Data on the number of collections per month (over an average seven-month period) at each bring site was provided (see Appendix 2). This information included a breakdown of can, card, co-mingled (textiles or a mixture of materials), glass, paper and plastic collections, which ranged from 12 times per month for the largest bring site to once a month for the smallest.
- 4.6 The number of 'visits' (the collection company visiting a bring site) per month (over an average seven-month period) to the 19 bring sites totalled 316. The number of 'tips' (the collection company emptying the bins) totalled 632. SBC pays for the 'tips', with each 'tip' costing £4.41.

Collection Volumes

- 4.7 The Committee was presented with statistics on the 7-month total tonnages collected between April 2017 and October 2017 (see Appendix 3). This table ranked each site according to one-month average tonnage, and also showed the total monthly cost to collect from each site, and the price per tonne collected.
- 4.8 It was noticeable that those bring sites with the highest tonnages collected were linked to supermarkets. Local Authority Officers reported that this was seemingly a common theme across the UK, with residents taking the opportunity to use bring site facilities whilst carrying out their weekly shop.
- 4.9 Since there were significant differences in the total tonnages collected across the Borough's bring sites, analysis had been undertaken to determine what the top 3-9 performing sites contribute as a percentage of the overall collection levels.

	Top 3	Top 4	Top 5	Top 6	Top 7	Top 8	Top 9
% Left	50.59%	60.62%	67%	74%	80.48%	84.30%	88%

As can be seen from the above table, the top 9 performing bring sites contribute 88% of the total tonnages collected from all SBC sites, with the remaining 10 bring sites accounting for only 12%.

Bring Site Misuse



- 4.10 Other factors to consider when assessing the current bring site provision across the Borough is the prevalence of fly-tipping and general misuse.

During peak times, these sites are often used as dumping grounds for general refuse. The Council is required to clear this area, at additional costs, as the current contract is to empty the bins, not the floor surrounding it (unless it is recyclable materials). The less bring sites SBC are required to manage, the more capacity there is for the Street Cleansing team to assist in the cleanliness.



- 4.11 It was noted that the other Tees Valley Local Authorities are constantly reviewing their remaining bring sites due to the resource cost required to maintain these services, and that Middlesbrough Council are currently considering the removal of their remaining bring site due to the cost of addressing the constant abuse of the facility.

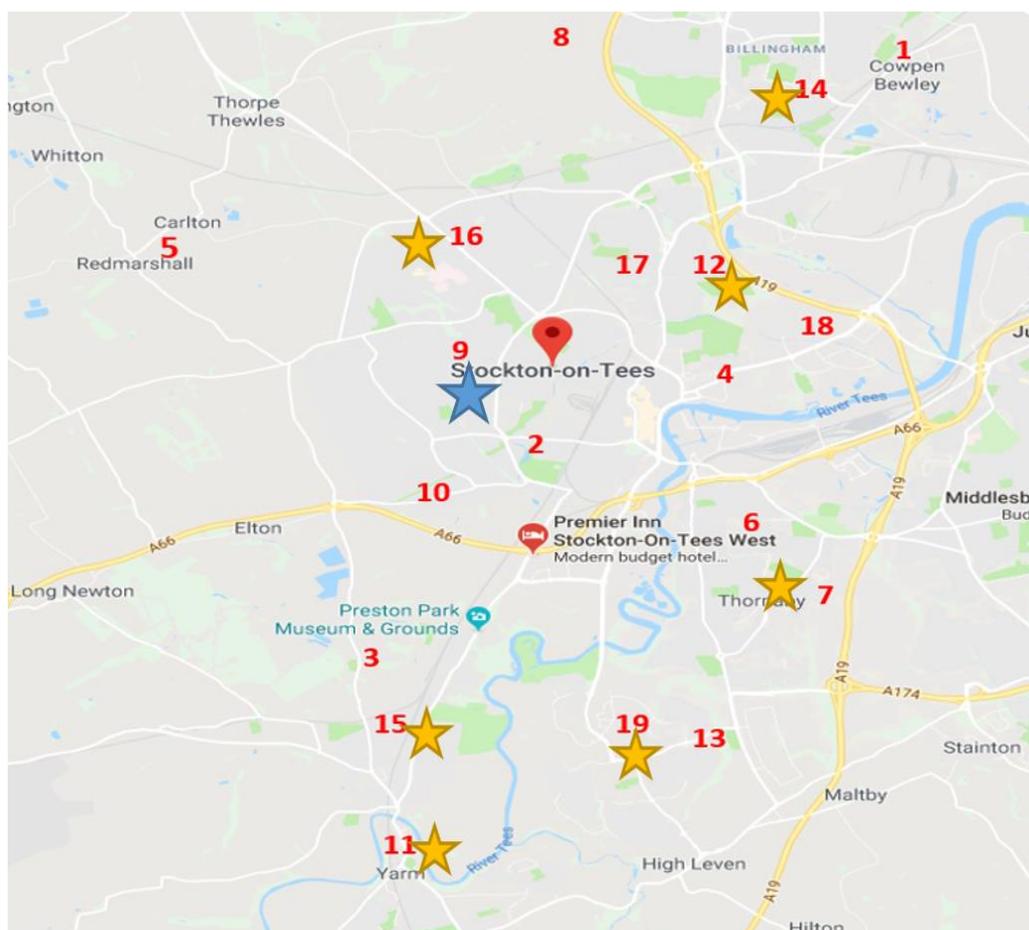
Proposals for future bring site provision across Stockton-on-Tees

- 4.12 Upon analysis of the available data, the Local Authority believes it can continue to offer an excellent, cost-effective and area-based bring site service to residents by reducing the number of current sites.
- 4.13 Based on the information outlined previously, it is proposed that the following seven SBC bring sites are retained:

- [Tesco Ingleby Barwick](#)
- [Tesco Stockton](#)
- [Tesco Eaglescliffe](#)
- [Tesco Billingham](#)
- [Sainsbury's Yarm](#)
- [Co-op Norton](#)
- [Thornaby Town Centre](#)

As one of the higher-performing bring sites, it was originally thought that Asda Stockton (Portrack Lane) would be part of these retention proposals. However, due to repeated misuse, Asda contacted SBC to request removal of the site, and this has very recently been closed. Thornaby Town Centre has therefore replaced Asda Stockton.

- 4.14 An important aspect of these proposals is the continuation of an area-based offer, which ensures that residents are not overly inconvenienced by the removal of the lesser-performing bring sites. The graphic below demonstrates the locations of the seven remaining sites (yellow stars ★).



No.	Location	No.	Location
1	Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park	11	Sainsbury's Yarm
2	Newtown Resource Centre	12	Co-op Norton
3	Oakwood Centre	13	Teal Arms (already closed)
4	Portrack Lane Hotel	14	Tesco Billingham
5	The Smiths Arms	15	Tesco Eaglescliffe
6	Thornaby Sports & Social	16	Tesco Stockton
7	Thornaby Town Centre	17	The Glebe Shops
8	Wynyard Woodland Park	18	Asda Stockton (already closed)
9	Elm Tree Shops	19	Tesco Ingleby Barwick
10	Harper Parade		

4.15 The option of leaving seven bring sites to serve the Borough's residents would bring an estimated annual saving of £8,500, or over 50% of the current costs. As referenced in paragraph 4.9, this would still see SBC collecting 80.48% of the total tonnage it currently collects.

4.16 It was acknowledged that a potential issue arising from these proposals is the removal of the three central-Stockton sites – Newtown Resource Centre (2), Elm Tree Shops (9) and Harper Parade (10). However, Sainsbury's at Bishopton Road in Stockton has a large privately-managed public bring site which is displayed on the above map with a blue star★. Whilst this is not a Council-run facility, it does offer residents the option to recycle.



Sainsbury's, Bishopton Road (privately-managed public bring site)

- 4.17 As part of the debate on these proposals, the Committee considered a number of factors, particularly around communication with residents and Councillors. Assurance was sought that a suitable plan would be in place to inform those affected of the changes to bring site provision. Local Authority Officers stated that timescales for any site closures will be appropriately communicated, along with plans to re-direct residents to other sites that remain. The kerbside collection offer would also be reinforced.
- 4.18 In light of the current joint contract with the other Tees Valley Local Authorities terminating in March 2019, the Committee asked if SBC had considered bringing the bring site service management contract in-house. Officers reported that this has been considered, but the Council would need to invest in vehicles that can collect recycling bins (specific vehicles are required), therefore this would increase costs. Such an option has not been ruled out as a future possibility though.
- 4.19 The impact of reduced bring site numbers was discussed. Concern was expressed that those sites that are closed could become dumping grounds, but Officers thought this was unlikely as people are usually discouraged to leave their items if nothing is there (and will instead go elsewhere) – it is more likely that people will take the opportunity to park their cars at these locations. Assurance was given that if any problems do arise, these will be dealt with.
- 4.20 Removing bring sites could lead to residents putting items that could be recycled into normal waste bins – it was suggested that giving the larger recycling bags out to areas where sites are closed may help prevent this. Officers noted that the next issue of Stockton News will include an article about the new recycling bag which was developed following a previous Kerbside Waste Collection scrutiny review in 2016.
- 4.21 The Committee considered the effects on the seven retained bring sites. The site at Tesco Ingleby Barwick was highlighted as an example, and it was questioned whether the nearby Teal Arms closure would lead to a re-assessment of the bin capacity at the Tesco Ingleby Barwick site as residents may go there instead. Officers acknowledged that the removal of bring sites across the Borough would require a review of the type and number of containers required, as well as the layout, at the retained sites to ensure an effective service.

In related matters, the Council would also need to liaise with Sainsbury's regarding their privately-managed Bishopton Road public bring site, and the

potential effect on this facility if the Council-run bring sites nearby are removed.

- 4.22 It was noted that residents who previously used the Asda Stockton (Portrack Lane) bring site could use the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Haverton Hill as an alternative – this could be included in the list of available bring sites.
- 4.23 To counter potential misuse, measures including the installation of CCTV at bring sites as well as reinforcing recycling messages in schools were raised. The Committee were made aware that in some circumstances, the land around the bring sites is privately-owned, therefore installing cameras is difficult. The Council will continue to work with supermarkets to address any misuse of sites.
- 4.24 Noting that nearly all seven of the bring sites being put forward for retention are connected to supermarkets, the Committee felt that the Council's proposed offer may be vulnerable to these organisations changing their approach towards the hosting of such sites. It was therefore suggested that the expected savings from the removal of some SBC bring sites were re-invested into the retained bring sites which may reduce the chances of the supermarkets requesting the removal of these facilities. Officers endorsed this concept, and reiterated the desire to improve the service through better facilities and improved signage and communication of these sites. As previously expressed, there is also an opportunity to increase the frequency of site cleansing visits if operatives are not so widely dispersed across a larger number of sites.
- 4.25 From the information presented, the Committee supported the proposals to retain only the seven identified bring sites. This would still leave SBC with a considerably better offer than neighbouring Local Authorities, and would allow for the projected savings from the removal of the lesser-performing sites to be re-invested into improving the seven remaining sites.

5.0 Conclusion & Recommendations

- 5.1 A feature of the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) recycling offer to residents is its provision of a number of bring sites at various locations across the Borough. The Council has historically promoted the use of these sites, and ensured that, despite budget pressures, they remain accessible in addition to the kerbside collection offer.
- 5.2 The number of bring sites currently in use throughout Stockton-on-Tees far exceeds that of neighbouring Local Authorities, and this is reflected in the larger monthly management fee that SBC pay as part of a joint Tees Valley service contract with J&B Recycling Ltd. This contract expires in March 2019, and in light of the other Tees Valley Local Authorities indicating that they do not wish to continue with the existing arrangements, SBC has a timely opportunity to implement any changes to its bring site provision.
- 5.3 Council data (mostly from 2017-2018) shows varying degrees of use across the Borough's bring sites. Strikingly, the Committee noted that the top nine performing sites (based on average tonnage collected) contribute 88% of the total tonnage of material collected.
- 5.4 The Committee were made aware of issues around fly-tipping which results in bring sites being used for general waste disposal, particularly during peak times such as Christmas. The Council, not the contractor, is required to clean up any bring sites where this occurs, and whilst it is difficult to attribute exact costs to this process, staff time and resources are adversely affected. Such misuse has led to the recent closure of the Teal Arms, Ingleby Barwick site, as well as a request from Asda to remove the Asda Stockton (Portrack Lane) site.
- 5.5 Based on the data presented, a proposal was put to the Committee to retain seven bring sites – this would result in an estimated annual saving of £8,500 (over 50% of the current costs), and would still see the Council collecting over 80% of the total tonnage of material it currently collects. It was acknowledged that such a proposal would see some residents having to travel further to use the remaining bring sites, but that the location of the retained sites (in addition to the privately-managed bring site at Sainsbury's, Bishopton Road) would mean that an effective area-based service could still be maintained.
- 5.6 The Committee were supportive of the proposal, but requested that the projected savings were re-invested into improving the remaining bring sites. Enhancing these sites (ensuring adequate containers, optimum layout, and clear signage), which are likely to see increased usage, also has the potential to prevent problems for other Council departments (e.g. Street Cleansing), which could in turn further reduce time and resource demand. There was also a need for appropriate and timely communication with residents (and Councillors) to outline these changes and re-direct them to the remaining sites, as well as reinforcing the kerbside collection offer.

Recommendations

The Committee recommend that:

- 1) On the basis of the data available, Cabinet endorses the proposal to reduce the number of Council-run bring sites to seven (as identified within the final report), with the projected savings re-invested into improving the remaining sites.**
- 2) A communication plan be devised to inform residents and Councillors of this decision and the implementation period, highlighting the location of the remaining bring sites and reinforcing the kerbside collection offer.**
- 3) Robust data-gathering continues for the remaining Council bring sites to monitor the effects of reducing the existing level of provision.**

APPENDIX 1: WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) - Optimising Bring Site Provision



Working together for
a world without waste

Optimising Bring Site Provision

Optimising bring site provision involves not only a thorough review of the performance and location of current sites but also involves looking at bring sites within the wider context of the recycling services that residents receive. By considering bring sites within this context, Officers can fully understand the contribution bring recycling makes to overall recycling performance.

Improve sites?

Kerbside
changes?

Close or Open
new site(s)?

Relocate sites?

Work with third
parties to
reduce costs?

Add/reduce
number of
materials?

Budgets?

Current
performance?

Future Goals?

There are several potential reasons to review bring site provision. These include:

- changes that are planned, or have recently been made, to other waste services;
- outcomes from an assessment of performance at existing bring sites;
- financial constraints; and
- a desire to increase working with third parties.

Here are some of the factors to consider when reviewing bring site provision in your area.

Performance – to inform decisions about adding new sites, or removing or improving existing sites, authorities should consider performance in terms of the tonnage of material collected, frequency of collections and the costs of operating the site. In addition, analysing data on emptying frequency and fill levels can inform decisions about what materials to collect and how many containers are required per material at each site. It is also important to look at any issues at the site, such as fly-tipping and vandalism and the number of complaints received.

APPENDIX 1: WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) - Optimising Bring Site Provision



Working with third parties – working with community organisations and retailers may be integral to the Council’s policies and so should be part of any review of bring site provision. A cost/benefit analysis of different working arrangements should be carried out to consider factors such as servicing of sites and potential revenue share from the sale of materials. The advantages and potential issues of working with other third parties, over existing in-house or contractual arrangements, should also be considered.

One aspect of optimising services may involve locating (more) sites on private land. Where this happens, working arrangements with the landowner need to be clearly defined so that liabilities such as fly-tipping and site cleaning are understood by all parties; the local authority, land owner, those undertaking site cleaning and those emptying containers.

Service changes – when authorities make changes to other recycling services – in particular to kerbside collection services – this can have a significant impact on bring site performance. Analysing any change in performance, will help inform decisions about the number of bring sites required, where they should be located and what materials should be collected.

Site design – the performance of any bring site is affected by its design, the type and number of containers provided and the layout. Performance is likely to improve if the site is easy to use by householders, and if it appears clean and attractive. When reviewing site provision, therefore, an important first step is to evaluate the potential impact of improving the design or layout of existing sites. Consider the costs and benefits of the required investment to improve site design/infrastructure and the expected increases in performance and income from the sale of materials as a result of these changes.

Contracts – if bring site services are contracted out, then any review on the number of containers/sites is best carried out in conjunction with, or at least with the knowledge of, the contractor. They will have useful information and insights to contribute. Changes to the number of sites are likely to have financial implications under the contract. There will be additional costs for the provision and servicing of additional containers/sites and, depending on how the contract was set up, potentially, penalties if sites are removed. If, following a review, you propose to add more containers to some sites or increase frequency of servicing, while reducing frequency at other sites, it may be possible to renegotiate aspects of the contract so that overall costs remain similar.

APPENDIX 2: Bring site collections across Stockton-on-Tees (typical six-month period)

Number of collections	Can	Card	Mingled	Glass	Paper	Plastic	Total visits	Total Collections
Asda Stockton		12	12	8	8		40	80
Co-op Norton	8	8		4	4	8	32	64
Cowpen <u>Bewley Woodland Park</u>			2	4			6	12
Elm Tree Shops			12	4	2		18	36
Harper Parade			8	8	4		20	40
Newtown Resource Centre	4			2	2		8	16
Oakwood Centre			4	1			5	10
Portrack Lane Hotel				2	1		3	6
Sainsbury's Yarm	8	8		8	4	8	36	72
Teal Arms			4	4	4		12	24
Tesco Billingham			12	12	4		28	56
Tesco Eaglescliffe			8	8	4		20	40
Tesco Ingleby Barwick			12	8	8		28	56
Tesco Stockton			12	8	4		24	48
The Glebe Shops			8	8			16	32
The Smiths Arms				1	1		2	4
Thornaby Sports & Social			2	2	2		6	12
Thornaby Town Centre			8	4			12	24
Wynyard Woodland Park								0
Total							316	632

TOTALS
316 Visits
632 Tips
£4.41 per collection

APPENDIX 3: 7-month total tonnages collected between April 2017 and October 2017

7 Month totals	Can	Card	Comingled	Glass	N+P	Plastic	7 month total tonnage	Rank	Total cost PM	1 month average tonnage	Cost Price per ton
Tesco Ingleby Barwick			22.85	16.89	13.85		53.59	1	246.68	7.66	32.22
Asda Stockton		7.41	17.27	13.37	11.47		49.52	2	352.40	7.07	49.82
Tesco Stockton			20.49	6.05	4.30		30.84	3	211.44	4.41	47.99
Tesco Eaglescliffe			9.25	11.59	4.79		25.63	4	176.20	3.66	48.12
Tesco Billingham			5.86	13.26	1.02		20.14	5	246.68	2.88	85.74
Sainsbury's Yarm	1.32	2.61		8.11	4.61	1.70	18.35	6	317.16	2.62	120.99
Co-op Norton	1.64	2.47		5.54	3.16	2.23	15.04	7	281.92	2.15	131.21
The Glebe Shops			3.13	7.29			10.42	8	140.96	1.49	94.69
Harper Parade			2.77	4.83	2.63		10.23	9	176.20	1.46	120.57
Teal Arms			1.80	3.20	4.04		9.03	10	105.72	1.29	81.95
Elm Tree Shops				2.70	1.31		8.13	11	158.58	1.16	136.54
Thornaby Town Centre			2.20	1.37	0.58		4.15	12	105.72	0.59	178.54
Newtown Resource Centre	1.32			1.04	1.41		3.77	13	70.48	0.54	130.86
Thornaby Sports & Social			0.32	1.37	0.58		2.27	14	52.86	0.32	163.00
Portrack Lane Hotel				1.78			1.78	15	26.43	0.25	103.94
Oakwood Centre			0.99	0.30			1.29	16	44.05	0.18	239.03
Cowpen Bewley			0.04	0.25			0.29	17	52.86	0.04	1275.93
The Smiths Arms			0.04	0.19			0.23	18	17.62	0.03	536.26
Wynyard Woodland Park			0				0	0	0	0.0	

7-month total tonnages collected between April 17 and October 17 and ranks each site according to 1-month average tonnage. The table also shows the total monthly cost to collect from each site and this figure divided by total tonnes collected to see the price per tonne collected.