

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

The separate EIA guidance notes outline what should be included for each section. Please read them before you begin. If you have any queries, contact your Corporate Equality Group rep, or the Engagement Team on 643 2828.

1. Author, service area, date

Samantha Dand, Senior Manager Local Environmental Services. 14th May 2018.

2. Who else has been involved in writing this EIA?

Wendy Brown, Operations Manager, Waste Collection, Environment, Housing and Leisure. 14th May 2018.

Steve Whitworth, Operations Manager, Fleet and Logistics, Environment, Housing and Leisure. 14th May 2018.

Pam Colby, Policy and Performance Manager. Corporate Strategy. 14th May 2017

3. What proposal is this EIA assessing?

The introduction of Alternate Weekly Waste Collections.

4. What is the purpose of your proposal and what is it expected to achieve?

In 2012, North Tyneside Council was one of 85 councils to make a successful bid for the Weekly Collection Support Scheme and was awarded a grant of £3.355 million by the Department for Communities and Local, Government. The grant was used to retain weekly waste collections until 2017.

Due to the end of the grant, consideration has been given to new ways of managing waste and recycling without this funding.

In addition to the loss of grant, waste levels continue to increase impacting on collection and disposal costs.

North Tyneside Council is therefore developing a plan to increase recycling and contain the growth of waste, as more developments are being built across the borough.

As part of the plan, there is a proposal to change the frequency of waste collections from weekly to alternate weekly.

With Alternate Weekly Collection, waste is still collected every week. Recyclables are collected one week and refuse the next week. There are a small number of premises within the borough that are unsuitable for alternate weekly collections.

Alternate Weekly Collections work positively by increasing householders' awareness of the waste they throw away and different ways to deal with it. This not only leads to a reduction in waste arisings but also greater capture of recyclable waste.

Alternate Weekly Collections have been successfully implemented in more than 70% of authorities across the country, which has led to an increase in recycling rates and a decrease in waste overall, with associated financial and environmental benefits. All of our neighbouring authorities now operate on Alternate Weekly Collections.

5. Is there any relevance to the aims of the public sector equality duty? *Write your answers in the table*

Aim	Yes, No, or N/A	Details if 'yes'
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment	Yes	Need to take due regard to residents with protected characteristics who may be adversely affected by changes to the frequency of waste collections.
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Yes	Need to take due regard to residents with protected characteristics who may be adversely affected by changes to the frequency of waste collections.
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	N/A	

6. Analysis by characteristic *Write your answers in the table*

Protected characteristic	Potential positive or negative impact?	Explanation and evidence
Age	Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Tyneside Council operates an assisted lift scheme for elderly residents and residents with mobility problems. Currently approximately 7,000 people make use of the scheme.
	Negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elderly residents may have difficulty wheeling bins containing two weeks of rubbish

		<p>rather than one week. According to the 2016 mid year census data there are 39,838 residents in North Tyneside over the age of 65. 18,051 75 years and over.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families with young children may have issues with nappy disposal and bin capacity if emptied less frequently. According to the 2016 mid-year census data there are 9,178 children aged 0-3 years old (nappy using age) in North Tyneside.
Disability	Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Tyneside Council operates an assisted lift scheme for elderly residents and residents with mobility problems. Currently approximately 7,000 people make use of the scheme.
	Negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to understand the new system and collection rota by residents with Learning Difficulties and Mental Health issues including dementia. Residents who use incontinence pads may struggle with bin capacity if emptied less frequently Residents with mobility issues and disabilities may have difficulty manoeuvring heavier wheeled bins containing two weeks of rubbish. 20.62% of the borough's population (Census 2011) reports that their day to activities are limited either a lot or a little by a long term health problem or disability.
Gender	N/A	No impact
Gender reassignment	N/A	No impact
Marriage and civil partnership status	N/A	No impact
Pregnancy and maternity	Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short term provision of assisted lift scheme for single pregnant women is available.
	Negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families with young children may have capacity issues with nappy disposal and bin capacity if emptied less frequently. Larger families may struggle with bin capacity as they produce more waste Pregnant women may struggle to manoeuvre heavy wheeled bins containing two weeks of rubbish
Race	Negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BME groups have a higher likelihood of living in a large household, the change of frequency of collections to fortnightly may result in more waste produced. 3.37% of North Tyneside residents are BME (Census 2011)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents who have limited English may not be able to read and understand communications literature conveying the change in collection frequency.
Religion or belief	Negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious events i.e. Christmas, may cause extra rubbish for a limited time
Sexual orientation	N/A	No impact

7. Have you carried out any engagement in relation to this proposal? If so, what?

Council wide engagement has been carried out by the Engagement Team and surveys were completed by residents as part of the Mayor's consultation on budget proposals.

8. Is there any information you don't have that you need to find?

N/A

9. What actions are already in place, or will be taken, to remove or reduce potential negative impacts? (add more lines to the table if you need to) *Write your answers in the table*

Action	Timescale
Develop a Communications Plan to inform residents that the council is moving to alternate weekly collections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the lead up to the introduction of AWC, communications on social media, council's website and council's magazine, encouraging waste minimisation and recycling Develop FAQs Fielding enquiries by contact centres and ward councillors Proactively communicating the changes via Facebook, Twitter, Our North Tyneside Magazine and the council's website. 	February until June 2018 June 2018 June 2018
Further promotion of Assisted Lift scheme for elderly residents and residents with mobility problems and pregnant women	June 2018
Develop an exception criteria	June 2018
Provision of the Household Waste Recycling Centre for residents to take their extra rubbish and recycling during religious events i.e. Christmas.	In place

Residents who have no means of transport to the HWRC, can request a special collection of waste. Some supermarkets operate Bring Banks for recyclable materials. We also operate Christmas Tree collections at key points in the borough.	In place In place December 2018
Promotion of subsidised garden composters as an alternative to putting some food waste (such as vegetables, fruit and egg shells) into the rubbish bin. Cooked meat or fish should not be put into the garden composter.	June 2018
Promote the council's subsidised reusable nappy scheme	June 2018

10. Are there any potential negative impacts that cannot be removed or reduced? If so, why is this?

None – remedial actions listed above.

11. Based on your conclusions from this assessment, what are your next steps?

- Feedback from Mayor's budget consultation
- Approval from Council relating to budget setting process – February 2018
- Cabinet approval to introduce AWC – June 2018
- Implement communication plan – June 2018
- Implement scheme – August 2018

12. How will the impact of this proposal be monitored after it is introduced?

- Feedback from residents through the contact centre, members enquiries, corporate complaints and social media
- Take up of Assisted Lift Scheme
- Take up nappy scheme and subsidised compost bins.

13. When will this EIA be reviewed?

January 2019.