

North Yorkshire Council

Corporate Director Environment

23 December 2024

Harmonisation of Wheeled Bin Colours

Report of Head of Waste (Contracts)

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT






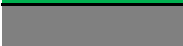






































1.1 To seek approval for the harmonisation of wheeled bin colours in advance of an upcoming procurement exercise.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 As part of the harmonisation of waste services, a decision is needed on the colour of waste and recycling containers, to inform upcoming container procurements. Whilst bin colour is usually an operational decision and could be made by the Corporate Director, given the significance of the scale of service change and longevity of the bin life, it is felt prudent to record the decision relating to the harmonised bin colour.

3.0 THE REPORT

3.1.1 The key principles determining the proposed harmonisation of bin colours is to minimise capital outlay on new bins by continuing to use the existing bin stocks until the end of their useful lives, and where possible to align with the standard WRAP colours to utilise national communication and campaign materials. The table below shows the proposed harmonised colours along with existing locality colours. The standard colours proposed are a grey body for all bins with different coloured lids. This approach gives flexibility within stock as lids can be swapped if needed rather than a whole bin.

		Residual	Garden	DMR	Paper/Card
Proposed Colours	Lid				
	Body				
Malton	Lid				
	Body			 Green Box	 Blue Box
Richmond	Lid				
	Body			 Green Box	 Blue Bag
Northallerton	Lid				
	Body				 Blue Box (Glass)
Skipton	Lid				N/A
	Body				N/A
Scarborough	Lid				N/A
	Body				N/A

Harrogate	Lid				
	Body				
Selby	Lid				
	Body				

3.1.2 The colours shown above are for illustration purposes only and are not the exact RAL colours the manufacturers produce as standard.

3.1.3 The image below shows the proposed new harmonised bin colours.



3.1.4 The proposed colours are based on the nationally recognised WRAP material stream iconography which is shown below. The WRAP iconography is used at all Household Waste Recycling Centres and on many of the councils existing promotional materials including leaflets and bin stickers, and will help assist consistent message to residents.



3.2 Residual Waste

3.2.1 The proposal is that all new and replacement residual waste bins have a grey body and a grey lid. This is already the standard colour in 5 out of 7 localities.

3.3 Garden Waste

3.3.1 The proposal is that all new and replacement garden waste bins have a grey body and a green lid. This is currently the standard lid colour in 3 out of 7 localities but matches the WRAP branding for garden waste collections.

3.3.2 Green coloured bins (lid and body) are currently used for residual waste in Skipton and Scarborough, but the new bins will be foil stamped on the lid clearly setting out what they are used for. The garden waste bins will also have a grey body and will display a license sticker which will distinguish them from existing residual waste bins.

3.4 Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR)

3.4.1 DMR will consist of mixed plastics, cans and glass bottles. The proposal is that all new and replacement DMR bins have a grey body and a red lid. There is currently no standard WRAP colour for DMR however red is the colour used for mixed plastics. The colour for

metals is grey which matches the proposed residual colour, and the colour for mixed glass is turquoise. Turquoise is not a standard bin colour and so manufacturers would incur increased costs and possibly additional lead in time for orders. Additionally, it is felt that this is not different enough in colour from the proposed colour for paper/card bins which may cause confusion for residents.

3.5 Paper/card

3.5.1 The proposal is that all new and replacement paper/card bins have a grey body and a light blue lid which matches the WRAP branding.

3.5.2 This bin colour scheme is becoming increasingly common among local authorities when choosing twin stream recycling. Milton Keynes and Cheshire West Councils have recently rolled out red and blue lidded recycling bins which are supplemented by coloured sacks where appropriate.

Website communications: Cheshire West and Milton Keynes Councils



3.6 Impact on Localities - DMR and Paper/card

3.6.1 The Malton and Richmond localities do not currently use wheeled bins for DMR or paper/card. At the point of any service change, the new harmonised bin colours would be introduced for these materials.

3.6.2 The Northallerton locality currently uses a blue lidded bin for paper/card, cans and plastic and a blue box for glass. At the point of any service change, the existing blue lidded bin would be used solely for paper/card and a new red lidded bin would be used for glass/cans/plastic. This would be supported by a communications campaign to make sure people put the right materials in the right bin.

3.6.3 The Skipton and Scarborough localities currently use a blue bin for all recycling. At the point of any service change, the existing blue lidded bin would be used solely for paper/card and a new red lidded bin would be used for glass/cans/plastic. Again, communications activity would support the service change.

3.6.4 The Harrogate locality currently uses a blue lidded bin for glass/cans/plastic and a blue sack for paper/card. At the point of any service change, detailed communication is needed to educate residents to change the use of their existing bin to paper/card and the new red lidded bin for glass/cans/plastic.

3.6.5 The Selby locality currently uses a brown bin for paper/card and a dark blue bin for DMR and will be retained until they reach the end of their useful life. The proposed new colours will only be used for new and replacement bins. The WRAP colour for paper/card is light blue and as the new bins would have a grey body with a foil stamped lid, it is felt this would be different enough from the existing dark blue DMR bin as to not cause confusion for

residents or collection crews. A new red lidded bin would be used for glass/cans/plastic for new and replacement bins. The delivery of all bins would be supported by clear resident communications.

3.7 Conclusion

3.7.1 The proposed bin colours using the nationally recognised WRAP material colours, harmonises most containers in most localities when the new wheeled bin recycling service is rolled out. It is acknowledged that there will be a period of transition in areas such as Scarborough, Skipton and Selby when non-conforming bin colours are replaced due to damage and wear and tear, with the harmonised bin colours. The proposed approach minimises unnecessary expenditure on waste receptacles and will be supported by clear communications to residents to ensure maximum participation in the recycling service provided.

3.7.2 The use of a grey bodied bin with coloured lids allows flexibility within stock. The new colours would only be used for new and replacement bins to reduce costs.

4.0 EQUALITIES

4.1 The report seeks a decision to harmonise wheeled bin colours. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed (Appendix A) and concludes that agreeing a standard set of colours will make it easier for residents throughout North Yorkshire to know what goes in each bin and all localities will eventually have the same standard system and service. For those with visual impairments, then a braille sticker can be offered for each bin.

4.2 New bins will be foil stamped on the lid clearly showing what they are to be used for which should help residents with colour blindness and householders are encouraged make their own bins identifiable which can further aid those with visual impairments.

4.3 All bin changes will be supported by clear communications to residents to ensure maximum participation in the recycling service provided.

5.0 FINANCE

5.1 The financial implications of a wheeled bin procurement will be covered under a separate report. The proposed colours are standard wheeled bin colours and so should not incur higher costs. It is proposed that the new colours are used for new and replacement wheeled bins only to reduce costs.

6.0 LEGAL

6.1 North Yorkshire Council as a Unitary Authority has a duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to arrange for the collection and disposal of household waste. Section 43 (4) of the act allows the council to specify the size, construction and maintenance of waste receptacles.

7.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 The report seeks a decision to harmonise wheeled bin colours. The climate change implications of service harmonisation will be considered in a separate report to members.

8.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The report seeks a decision to harmonise wheeled bin colours. The policy implications of implementing any service changes will be considered in a separate report to members.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To seek approval for the harmonisation of wheeled bin colours in advance of an upcoming procurement exercise.

APPENDICES

Appendix A : Equality Impact Assessment Form

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Aimi Brookes
Service Development Manager (Waste)
03 December 2024

Author of Report: Aimi Brookes, Service Development Manager (Waste)

Equality impact assessment (EIA) form: evidencing paying due regard to protected characteristics

(Form updated October 2023)

Harmonisation of Wheeled Bin Colours

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please contact the Communications Unit on 01609 53 2013 or email communications@northyorks.gov.uk.

Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are public documents. EIAs accompanying reports going to County Councillors for decisions are published with the committee papers on our website and are available in hard copy at the relevant meeting. To help people to find completed EIAs we also publish them in the Equality and Diversity section of our website. This will help people to see for themselves how we have paid due regard in order to meet statutory requirements.

Name of Directorate and Service Area	Environmental Services
Lead Officer and contact details	Peter Jeffreys - Head of Waste (Contracts)
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the EIA	Jenny Lowes – Service Improvement Officer Waste Tracey Flint – Service Improvement Officer Waste
How will you pay due regard? e.g. working group, individual officer	Waste Harmonisation Working Group
When did the due regard process start?	April 2024

Section 2. Why is this being proposed? What are the aims? What does the authority hope to achieve by it? (e.g. to save money, meet increased demand, do things in a better way.)

As part of the harmonisation of waste services and the latest government announcement on Simpler Recycling, going forward as one council we aim to agree a standard colour of waste and recycling containers for all North Yorkshire domestic properties.

The standard colours proposed are a grey body for all bins with different coloured lids.

The proposed colour of lids are based on the nationally recognised WRAP's Recycle Now material stream colours; green for garden waste, grey for rubbish, blue for paper and card and red for mixed recycling (no standard colour for mixed items exists but red is used for mixed plastics).

A key aim is to minimise capital outlay on new bins by continuing to use the existing bin stocks until the end of their life or at the point of any service change, and to align with the standard WRAP colours to utilise national communication and campaign materials.

Section 3. What will change? What will be different for customers and/or staff?

All new and replacement residual waste bins will have a grey body and a grey lid. This is already the standard colour in 5 out of 7 localities. For those 2 localities, bins will be exchanged to the new grey body and grey lid at the point of any service change.

All new and replacement garden waste bins will have a grey body and a green lid. This is currently the standard lid colour in 3 out of 7 localities. For those 4 localities, bins will be exchanged to the new grey body and green lid at the point of any service change.

All new and replacement mixed recycling bins will have a grey body and a red lid. There is currently no standard WRAP colour for mixed recycling however red is the colour used for mixed plastics. No localities currently have this style bin so this would be a change for all customers from various alternative containers at the point of any service change

All new and replacement paper/card bins will have a grey body and a light blue lid which matches the WRAP branding. This colour bin is currently used in Northallerton and Harrogate for mixed recycling locality for mixed recycling and Harrogate. At the point of any service change, the existing blue lidded bin would be used solely for paper/card and a new red lidded bin would be used for glass/cans/plastic. This would be supported by a communications campaign to make sure people put the right materials in the right bin.

Section 4. Involvement and consultation (What involvement and consultation has been done regarding the proposal and what are the results? What consultation will be needed and how will it be done?)

We carried out the Let's Talk Rubbish survey from 8 July 24 to 16 September 24. A total of 10,475 valid survey responses were received. The waste team staff also attended over 30 face to face events in market places, libraries and community events to promote the survey and discuss the proposal with residents. Three disability forums were attended as part of the consultation process.

Although no specific question was asked regarding bin colours it was found that:

- Nearly nine-in-ten people (88%) say it is very important (61%) or important (26%) that North Yorkshire residents have access to an equal recycling service. Only 3% say this is not very important (2%) or unimportant (1%).

There were no free text comments received concerning the colour of bins only the size of bins provided.

Section 5. What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?

The harmonisation of bin colours should reduce costs to the council in the long term. The use of a grey bodied bin with coloured lids allows flexibility within stock. The new colours would only be used for new and replacement bins to reduce costs.

The proposed colours are standard wheeled bin colours, the future roll out of the service change will be completed in alignment with the vehicle replacement programme, such that additional costs will be avoided.

But overall, there is forecast to be a long-term reduction in cost due to the standardisation and it's consequences of the overall harmonised service.

Section 6. How will this proposal affect people with protected characteristics?	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.
Age	X			No impact on age.
Disability			X	<p>Although not generally classed as a disability, for those with the visual impairment of colour blindness there may be an impact. There are different types of colour blindness and in extremely rare cases people are unable to see any colour at all, but most colour blind people (about 4.5% of the entire population), most of whom are male are unable to fully 'see' red, green or blue light.</p> <p>However, all new bins will be foil stamped on the lid clearly showing what they are to be used for so this can be overcome for these members of the community.</p> <p>A leaflet will also be provided with information on what goes in each bin.</p> <p>For those registered blind then assistance will be given where notified and help will be given to identify which bin is which if it is needed – a braille sticker for each bin can be offered.</p>
Sex	X			No impact on sex.
Race	X			No impact on race.
Gender reassignment	X			No impact on gender reassignment.
Sexual orientation	X			No impact on sexual orientation.
Religion or belief	X			No impact on religion or belief.

Pregnancy or maternity	X			No impact on pregnancy or maternity
Marriage or civil partnership	X			No impact on marriage or civil partnership

Section 7. How will this proposal affect people who...	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.
...live in a rural area?	x			No impact on rural area.
...have a low income?	x			No impact on low income
...are carers (unpaid family or friend)?	x			No impact on carers.
..... are from the Armed Forces Community	x			No impact on the Armed forces community

Section 8. Geographic impact – Please detail where the impact will be (please tick all that apply)

North Yorkshire wide	X
Craven	
Hambleton	
Harrogate	
Richmondshire	
Ryedale	
Scarborough	
Selby	

If you have ticked one or more areas, will specific town(s)/village(s) be particularly impacted? If so, please specify below.

The proposed bin colours using the nationally recognised WRAP material colours, harmonises most containers in most localities should a new wheeled bin recycling service be rolled out. It is acknowledged that there will be a period of transition in areas such as Scarborough, Skipton and Selby when non-conforming bin colours are replaced due to damage and wear and tear, with the harmonised bin colours.

Section 9. Will the proposal affect anyone more because of a combination of protected characteristics? (e.g. older women or young gay men) State what you think the effect may be and why, providing evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.

The proposal should not affect anyone because of a combination of protected characteristics.

Assistance will be provided when requested.

Section 10. Next steps to address the anticipated impact. Select one of the following options and explain why this has been chosen. (Remember: we have an anticipatory duty to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled people can access services and work for us)	Tick option chosen
1. No adverse impact - no major change needed to the proposal. There is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact identified.	
2. Adverse impact - adjust the proposal - The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. We will change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, or we will achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people.	
3. Adverse impact - continue the proposal - The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. We cannot change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, nor can we achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people. (There must be compelling reasons for continuing with proposals which will have the most adverse impacts. Get advice from Legal Services)	X
4. Actual or potential unlawful discrimination - stop and remove the proposal – The EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination. It must be stopped.	
<p>Explanation of why option has been chosen. (Include any advice given by Legal Services.)</p> <p>We recognise the colour change may have an adverse impact for colour blind residents. However, overall there will be an improvement in service for most residents and for some elderly/disabled residents they will also see it as an improvement in service. We will continue to offer assisted collections to residents who meet one of the following criteria providing no other able-bodied person lives in the property:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the resident is elderly or frail and could provide a written reference from a carer or healthcare professional on request, • the resident is registered blind or partially sighted, • the resident receives Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Attendance Allowance, • the resident is not in receipt of any disability benefits but could provide suitable documentary evidence of a disability on request. <p>In addition, residents can apply for a temporary assisted collection for up to 6 months, which can be renewed after 6 months if needed. This may be due to illness (including pregnancy related illnesses), or recovery from an operation or injury.</p> <p>For those registered blind assistance will be given where notified and help will be given to identify which bin is which if it is needed – a braille sticker for each bin can be offered.</p>	

Residents are encouraged to label bins to make them more identifiable to themselves if necessary.

Section 11. If the proposal is to be implemented how will you find out how it is really affecting people? (How will you monitor and review the changes?)

Resident participation will be monitored through vehicle in cab technology and tonnages collected.
 Customers services enquiries/complaints and on-line contact forms.
 Engagement with crews
 Assisted collection enquiries.

Section 12. Action plan. List any actions you need to take which have been identified in this EIA, including post implementation review to find out how the outcomes have been achieved in practice and what impacts there have actually been on people with protected characteristics.

Action	Lead	By when	Progress	Monitoring arrangements
Ensure all bin lids have clear information on what goes in each bin.	Contracts Manager (Waste)	At first procurement stage.	At procurement	Each order
Offer a Braille sticker option for bins?	Contracts Manager (Waste)	When requested	When requested	When requested

Section 13. Summary Summarise the findings of your EIA, including impacts, recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

The harmonisation of bin colours should reduce costs to the council in the long term.

Agreeing a standard set of colours will make it easier for residents throughout North Yorkshire to know what goes in each bin and all localities will eventually have the same standard system and service.

For those with visual impairments, then a braille sticker can be offered for each bin.

New bins will be foil stamped on the lid clearly showing what they are to be used for which should help residents with colour blindness and householders are encouraged make their own bins identifiable which can further aid those with visual impairments.

All bin changes will be supported by clear communications to residents to ensure maximum participation in the recycling service provided.

Section 14. Sign off section

This full EIA was completed by:

Name: Jenny Lowes / Tracey Flint
Job title: Service Improvement Officers
Directorate: Environment
Signature: *J Lowes / T Flint*
Completion date: 13 December

Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature): Michael Leah

Date: 19/12/2024