

DRAFT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Dear Resident,

As you are no doubt aware the effects of climate change are of increasing concern to all of us and as a community, all of us here in Guildford Borough, have a role to play in reducing its potential to disrupt our lives and the lives of future generations. One of the ways we can do this is to reduce and recycle much more of the rubbish we dispose of. It is estimated that current levels of recycling nationally in the UK are achieving cuts in harmful emissions that are equivalent to removing 5 million cars a year from our roads. This is why there is increasing pressure from national government and from Europe for us to increase levels of recycling even further.

Guildford Borough Council is keen for all of us to play our part and, as you may be aware, has been striving to reach a target of 60% recycling and home composting by the year 2010. Currently we are recycling and home composting over 40% of our waste and so it is clear that if we are to reach our target and help in the battle against climate change and its consequences we need to make some improvements to our services.

After extensive research the Council is proposing to introduce an enhanced and improved service designed to make reducing, re-using and recycling our rubbish easier for everyone. This is explained below.

Kerbside recycling.

We will continue to collect all types of paper, cans, aerosols and glass bottles & jars from the green and purple recycling boxes. The vast majority of residents can also recycle their plastic bottles in their green boxes. Textiles are also collected. We will add domestic disposable batteries to these collections. **These materials will be collected every week as they are now.**

Garden waste recycling.





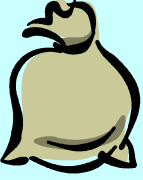

The Council will continue to encourage everyone to home compost as much of their garden waste as possible as this is the best environmental option for this particular waste stream. However, we recognise that not everyone will be able to compost everything and so we will continue to offer the option of garden waste collections for a small fee for those residents who wish to take part. **This material will be collected every fortnight as it is now.**

Food waste.

When food waste is sent to landfill it generates methane, one of the most polluting and potent of greenhouse gasses. The Council will therefore introduce a scheme for the separate collection of this material, which will be diverted from landfill and sent for composting. Households will be provided with a small sink caddy and a lockable kerbside container for placing the waste out for collection. **This material will be collected every week.**

Left over rubbish that cannot be recycled or composted.

Once you have separated all of the materials above there should be very little indeed left over. The Council will provide (wherever possible) a wheeled bin to store this material, which **will be collected fortnightly. We realise that flats and terraced houses may not be able to accommodate a wheelie bin and those residents will be able to continue with a black sack collection, fortnightly.**

MATERIAL	WEEK 1	WEEK 2
PAPER, TEXTILES, GLASS, PLASTIC BOTTLES, CANS AND BATTERIES		
FOOD WASTE		
OPTIONAL GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION		
RESIDUAL REFUSE.		

The Council is aware that changing the frequency of residual waste collections has encountered opposition from residents in other parts of the country **but** please note **there is a significant difference** between our proposal and schemes implemented elsewhere. Residents in other parts of the country have complained that rubbish bins emptied fortnightly attract flies, maggots and rodents as well as nasty smells. This is all caused because there is food waste in the bins. In Guildford **all food waste will be collected separately every week thereby eliminating all of these problems.** Careful research has demonstrated that if the average Guildford resident recycled and composted everything that they could, then only 13% of their weekly waste would end up in the refuse wheeled bin for fortnightly collection. These changes result in an enhancement to the service. They have not been introduced as a cost saving exercise – they have been introduced with a view to making recycling easier for all residents and addressing the issues relating to our environment.

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FEEDBACK.

Your views are extremely important to us and we value your feedback. Please take the time to answer the following questions and return this form to us at

1. If you have any comments or concerns relating to these proposals then please outline below:

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2. What other improvements could the Council implement to make managing your rubbish easier for you?

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Name and address and contact details (optional):

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For further information please call.....or see our website
at.....