

Options Appraisal: Collecting bins from properties on top of a bank in Auckland Drive

Date: 26th June 2025 / ■

Aim

- Establish a safe and efficient collection methods for refuse and recycling collections for properties located on top of banks in Auckland Drive and Hornby Road
- Provide detailed options and costings and an option recommendation for each location

Background

Auckland Drive has several properties located at the top of steep banks access via slopes with steps. These areas have generated several complaints from crews regarding manual handling concerns and time taken to complete collections.

A H&S report for Auckland Drive was produced in September 2024 identifying the risks i.e. slips, trips and falls, strains, fatigue from walking long distances and proposed solutions e.g. installation of ramps or drop kerbs, installing communal bins or encouraging residents to present their bins down on the road. The importance of resident buy-in and engagement was also mentioned.

Description: There are 49 properties situated along the top of a 650m long bank (21 x pairs of semi-detached, 1 x terrace of 4 and 1 x terrace of 3). These properties have a single access path running in front of them and along the top the bank with 9 separate slopes with steps roughly every 8 properties apart and running down the bank to access the road.

Most properties house medium to large families who regularly produce full bins for both refuse and recycling.

Collections: Refuse is collected from 140 or 240L bins, weekly by REF 8, weekly on a Wednesday. Recycling is collected from 140 or 240L bins and glass in boxes, fortnightly by REC 9 on a Thursday / week 1. Both sets of crews are supplied with an additional third crew member to assist with collections. There are also 5 properties on assisted collections.

There are 6 options for Auckland Dive with option 4 being the preferred option

- **Option1:** No structural changes to the location with crews collecting following a H&S site specific Method Statement to collect and return bins directly to each property. All residents with glass boxes moved to 140L glass bin.
- **Option 2:** No structural changes to the location with crews collecting following a H&S site specific Method Statement to collect bins directly from each property with bins only being partly returned to a designated point along each slope, requiring residents to collect their own empty bin(s) and taking them back to their property. All residents with glass boxes moved to 140L glass bin.
- **Option 3:** Residents at key addresses are given Seagull Bags instead of bins for both refuse and recycling with crews using 'service' bins to empty the Seagull Bags into, ready to tip into their respective vehicle. All residents with glass boxes to remain on boxes.
- **Option 4:** Communal bins placed in roadside parking bays on the opposite side of the road x 3 locations, each containing 4 x 1100L bin for refuse, 3 x 1100L bin for recycling, 1 x 1100L bin for glass (total 1100L bins per location = 8)
- **Option 5:** Three communal bin store areas cut into the bank at roadside level each containing 4 x 1100L bins for refuse, 3 x 1100L bins for refuse, 1 x 1100LL bin for glass (total 1100L bins per location = 8)
- **Option 6:** Steps at the bottom, mid and top points of the slopes are converted into slopes with crews collecting following a H&S site specific method statement. All residents with glass boxes moved to 140L glass bin.

Options Appraisal Table (additional details, pros, cons and estimated costs)

Option1: No structural changes to the location with crews collecting following a H&S site specific Method Statement to collect and return bins directly to each property. All residents with glass boxes moved to 140L glass bin.			
Additional detail	Pros	Cons	Cost
- Method Statement will require bins to be walked from and returned to each property, along slopes and up and down steps Comms: Letter to residents explaining collection method and asking them not to overfill bins	- Already collecting bins from this location - Method Statement will provide clear and safe site-specific instructions - Glass boxes moved to 140L bins - Residents informed by letter	- Remains as time consuming exercise and the need to retain a third additional crew member - Crews may take short cuts against Method Statement causing injuries and sick days - Requires regular manager supervision - Slopes and steps remain hazardous and particularly in inclement weather conditions	140L bins x 49 Printing & postage Continued additional crew member x 1.5 per week Total = + rolling
Option 2: No structural changes to the location with crews collecting following a H&S site specific Method Statement to collect bins directly from each property with bins only being partly returned to a designated point along each slope, requiring residents to collect their own empty bin(s) and taking them back to their property. All residents with glass boxes moved to 140L glass bin.			
Additional detail	Pros	Cons	Cost
- Method Statement will require bins to be walked from and returned partly to each property, along designated slopes and up and down steps Comms: Letter to residents explaining collection method and asking them not to overfill bins	- Already collecting bins from this location - Method Statement will provide clear and safe site-specific instructions - Glass boxes moved to 140L bins - Time will be saved by only part returning bins - Residents informed by letter	- Minimal time saved with bins being partly returned - Full bins still brought down slopes and steps. - Still requires a third additional crew member - Access along slopes may be blocked by residents to collecting their bins - Generate customer complaints. - Slopes and steps remain hazardous and particularly in inclement weather conditions	140L bins x 49 Printing & postage Continued additional crew member x 1.5 per week Total = + rolling

Option 3: Residents at key addresses are given Seagull Bags instead of bins for both refuse and recycling with crews using 'service' bins to empty the Seagull Bags into, ready to tip into their respective vehicle. All residents with glass boxes to remain on boxes.

Additional detail	Pros	Cons	Cost
'Service' bin options 1) Resident at key address agrees to their bins being used as the 'service' bins 2) Street Cleansing team to drop 'service' bins up in the morning and collect end of the day. 3) 'Service' bin stored / chained up in nearby location. Seagull Bags - Residents place refuse in black sacks into the refuse Seagull Bag and DMR loose into recycling seagull bag. Comms: Letter and instruction leaflet to residents explaining collection method and asking them not to overfill Seagull Bags and glass boxes.	- Time saved by reduced number of bin journeys up and down slopes and steps. - Reduced injuries and sick days - May not require third crew member - Opportunity to trial Sea Gull Bags which could be rolled out to other 'awkward' locations. - Residents informed by letter and instruction leaflet.	- Dependant on 'service' bins being delivered by Street Cleanings or key resident issued with bins and agreeing to using their bins as 'service' bins. - Requires 'service' bin journeys up and down slopes and steps. - May still require third crew member - New service method for residents to adjust to. - Slopes and steps remain hazardous and particularly in inclement weather conditions	Seagull Bags x 94 (94 x [REDACTED]) Letters and instruction leaflet [REDACTED] Total = [REDACTED] + rolling [REDACTED]

Option 4: Communal bins placed in roadside parking bays on the opposite side of the road x 3 locations, each containing 4 x 1100L bins for refuse, 3 x 1100L bins for recycling, 1 x 1100L bin for glass (total 1100L bins per location = 8)

Additional detail	Pros	Cons	Cost
- Bins will be locked with apertures - Bin area could be partially screened - optional - Permission will need to be sort through Planning & Highways Comms: Letter and instruction leaflet to residents explaining collection method and not to leave side waste / fly-tips	- Significant time saved by no longer having to collect and return bins up and down slopes and steps to each property. - Third crew member no longer required - Injuries and sick days mitigated - Reduced collection noise from bumping bins up and down steps - Number of bins can be adjusted if required - Hazards cause by inclement weather conditions mitigated - Successful example in Hove [REDACTED] to provide info	- Loss of x parking bays - Residents in properties on the suggested bin area side of the road may complain about waste blowing into their gardens, noise from bin emptying. - Loss of parking spaces. - Fly-tipping may occur requiring regular monitoring and clearances	1100L bins x 22 [REDACTED] x 22 = [REDACTED] Letters and instruction leaflet [REDACTED] Optional bin post fixing x 22 (22 x £100 = £2,200) Optional screening x 3 [REDACTED] = [REDACTED] Total = [REDACTED] + optional fixing / screens – tbc

Option 5: Three communal bin store areas cut into the bank at roadside level each containing 4 x 1100L bins for refuse, 3 x 1100L bins for refuse, 1 x 1100LL bin for glass (total 1100L bins per location = 8)

Additional detail	Pros	Cons	Cost
- Bins will be locked with apertures - Bins will be partially screened by bank - Permission may be need by Planning, Highways and Housing Comms: Letter and instruction leaflet to residents explaining collection method and not to leave side waste / fly-tips	- Significant time saved by no longer having to collect and return bins up and down slopes and steps to each property. - Third crew member no longer required - Injuries and sick days mitigated - Reduced collection noise from bumping bins up and down steps - Hazards on slopes and steps mitigated	- Residents will have to use the road as their main access point to use the bins - Residents on the opposite side of the road may complain about waste blowing into their gardens, noise from bin emptying. - Fly-tipping may occur requiring regular monitoring and clearances	1100L bins x 22 () 22 = () Groundworks e.g. concrete pads and retaining walls x 3 (x 3 =) Letters and instruction leaflet () Total = ()

Option 6: Steps at the bottom, mid and top points of the slopes are converted into slopes with crews collecting following a H&S site specific method statement. All residents with glass boxes moved to 140L glass bin.

Additional detail	Pros	Cons	Cost
- Method Statement will require bins to be walked from and returned to each property along slopes. Comms: Letter to residents explaining collection method and asking them not to overfill bins	- Already collecting bins from this location - Method Statement will provide clear and safe site-specific instructions - Glass boxes moved to 140L bins - Residents informed by letter	- Converting steps to slopes may not be feasible due to slope gradient regulations. - Remains a time-consuming exercise and the need to retain a third additional crew member - Crews may take short cuts against Method Statement causing injuries and sick days - Requires regular manager supervision - Slopes remain hazardous and particularly in inclement weather conditions.	140L bins x 49 (x 49 =) Groundworks & concrete slopes x 8 (8 x =) Letters and instruction leaflet () Total = ()