

EPSOM & EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

1.1 Introduction

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council (Epsom and Ewell) is a compact authority in the east of Surrey. The Borough shares two borders with other Surrey districts (Mole Valley and Reigate & Banstead) and two with London boroughs (Kingston-upon-Thames and Sutton).

The Borough covers an area of approximately 3,400 hectares, with a resident population of approximately 68,500 people living in approximately 29,300 properties. The Borough is mainly suburban in character and its main centres are Epsom and Ewell. The vast majority of residents live in houses. There are no high-rise buildings in the Borough.

The population of Epsom and Ewell is expected to rise marginally over the next 20 years.

1.2 Controlled Wastes to be Collected

The national average growth in household waste arisings is currently 3% per annum, with the County of Surrey being below 3%. The County is committed to reducing this growth rate to 0.5% beyond 2004/05 but evidence that this has occurred is not yet available.

In Epsom & Ewell there has been a reduction in waste arisings per head of population since 2002/03 and a further reduction is forecast for 2007/08.

For the purposes of this plan, it has been assumed that there will be no significant change in the population over the period of the strategy although the number of households is expected to grow.

Table 1.1 shows the arisings of controlled waste expected to be collected in Epsom and Ewell between 2005 and 2009.

Table 1.1 Controlled Wastes

Waste Stream	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9 *
Domestic refuse (includes bulky waste) (t/yr)	24,591	23,537	23,226	22,374	21,321	18,565	17,850
Street sweepings (t/yr)	1,443	1,401	937	955	1,241	1,250	1,250
Recyclable material (t/yr)	2,534	3,421	4,430	5,000	5,576	5,965	6,220
Compostable material (t/yr)	0	0	0	36	352	2,400	2,800
Recycling and composting rate (%)	8.87	12.06	15.49	17.76	20.81	29.70	32
Total arisings (t/yr)	28,568	28,359	28,593	28,365	28,490	28,200	28,100

* Note: The Council has given an "in-principle" approval to the introduction of additional kerbside recycling for food waste, cardboard and plastic bottles, to be phased in between February and August 2009. Due to the limited impact during 2008/09 this has not been incorporated within these tonnages.

1.3 Controlled Waste to be Dealt with for Recycling Purposes

Table 1.2 shows the quantities of recyclables that Epsom and Ewell expects to collect for recycling during the period of this plan based on existing infrastructure.

Epsom and Ewell achieved a recycling rate of 20.81% in 2006/07, 1.24% of which arose from a subscription-based kerbside garden waste recycling service launched at the end of November

2006. After a year's service, garden waste recycling is now contributing 9.45% of the overall recycling performance of 29.95% (YTD December 2007).

There have been various studies undertaken of potential recycling and composting rates which could be achieved across Surrey. These are summarised in Supplementary Report 4 (SR-4 to the JMWMS). The projections shown below assume continuation of the current dry recycling services. As previously described, garden waste recycling has grown ahead of forecast with strong public support.

Table 1.2 Projected quantities of waste to be collected for recycling for the period 2004-2009

Material	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Newspaper and magazines (kerbside and bring sites) (t/yr)	1,590	1,956	2,517	2,842	3,084	3,225	3,300
Mixed paper and card (bring sites) (t/yr)	0	130	169	214	226	290	350
Brown glass (kerbside and bring sites) (t/yr)	94	157	250	63	306	500	500
Clear glass (kerbside and bring sites) (t/yr)	276	399	539	125	618	560	625
Green glass (kerbside and bring sites) (t/yr)	498	654	766	167	806	750	775
Mixed glass (kerbside and bring sites) (t/yr)	0	0	25	1,354	205	250	200
Mixed cans (kerbside and bring sites) (t/yr)	33	81	129	174	221	290	350
Textiles (bring sites) (t/yr)	43	44	35	41	43	65	70
Plastic bottles (bring sites) (t/yr)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	35	50
Garden waste (kerbside) (t/yr)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/k	352	2,400	2,800
Total (t/yr)	2,534	3,421	4,430	4,980	5,866	8,385	9,020

1.4 Waste Disposal Contract Arrangements

In September 1999, the County Council entered into a contract with Surrey Waste Management Ltd (SWM) to provide waste management services for a period of 25 years. SWM is a wholly owned subsidiary company of SITA (UK) one of the largest waste management companies operating in the UK.

The contract requires SWM to:

- Operate the 15 Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) and 3 waste transfer stations within the County
- Provide facilities to deal with all the waste delivered by the eleven borough councils and CRCs within Surrey
- Develop facilities to deal with recyclable materials collected by the borough councils and CRCs within Surrey
- Recover value from 40% of all Surrey's household waste by 31st March 2007

At the Leatherhead and Guildford Waste Depots, large bays have been constructed to provide local points where Surrey district councils can deliver recyclable materials collected from

householders and recycling banks. A third facility has also been constructed at Shepperton which includes equipment to separate mixed recyclable materials. Epsom & Ewell Borough Council now tip garden waste at the transfer station at Blenheim Road, Epsom.

1.5 Current Refuse Service

Epsom and Ewell has operated a wheeled bin residual waste collection service since 1988. The standard bin is a 240-litre. Residents are asked to put refuse in plastic sacks before placing it in the bin. Flats and properties in multi-occupation are provided with larger communal 1100-litre wheeled bins where appropriate. A small number of properties where there is not space to accommodate a wheeled bin have a sack collection.

For reasons of health & safety, and to control volume, operatives are instructed not to collect side-waste (i.e. sacks of waste placed next to the wheeled bin) and to reject any containers where the lid cannot be completely closed.

In partnership with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) the Council has supported the distribution of 14,800 subsidised home composters to residents. Partly as a result of this initiative, total household waste collected has declined steadily since 2002-03 despite the completion of c.1,100 additional homes in the borough over the period.

The service is provided in-house by the Operational Services division in accordance with the principles of best value. The cost of collection per head of population is one of the lowest of any district council.

The Council operates 6 Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) (see table 1.3) leased from vehicle supplier SFS. The existing contract expires at the end of September 2008:

- The 4 frontline RCVs are crewed by a driver and 2 loaders. Refuse is delivered to the transfer station in Blenheim Road, Epsom operated by Surrey Waste Management on behalf of Surrey County Council. Each vehicle tips either 2 or 3 times per day and no refuse is stored overnight in vehicles. The rounds are finished, on average, by 2.30pm each day.
- The 24 tonne RCV is used to:
 - collect trade refuse;
 - collect some missed bins (although the main crews have first responsibility);
 - collect refuse from “off route” areas;
 - perform relief duties for kerbside paper recycling collections;
 - make paper collections from recycling bring-sites and other non scheduled work.

Table 1.3 Epsom and Ewell Refuse Collection Vehicles

Type of Refuse Collection Vehicle	Number of Vehicles	Payload	Owned by Council/Contactor/ Lease
Dennis Elite 1 26t Refuse Collection Vehicle (RCV) with Phoenix 2 body	4 front-line RCVs	12 tonnes	Specialist Fleet Services Ltd
Dennis Excel 13 23t RCV with Phoenix 1 body	1 spare RCV	10 tonnes	Specialist Fleet Services Ltd

1.6 Current Recycling Service

1.6.1 Kerbside “Dry” Recyclables Collections

Epsom and Ewell offers a weekly kerbside recycling service for “dry” materials to all properties in the borough. The service collects glass, mixed cans, newspapers & magazines and textiles & clothing. This service has operated since September 2003, being fortnightly until upgraded to weekly in April 2005.

Source-separation of materials (including 3 colours of glass) maximises the income generated from the sale of recyclables, reducing the cost of the service to residents.

Residents are provided with a 35-litre re-usable sack for newspapers & magazines, and a 55-litre lidded kerbside box for glass/cans. Textiles & clothing are placed in black sacks.

4 collection rounds are operated per day using Terberg Kerbsider vehicles on Dennis Elite 2 18-tonne chassis, two of which were bought using DEFRA funding and two of which are leased from SFS. Each vehicle is crewed by a driver and two loaders. These vehicles are also used for the collection of glass and cans from bring-sites, using 240-litre bin lifts.

As a consequence of increasing tonnages, the Borough now also uses an RCV from the garden waste recycling service for a kerbside paper collection each morning. This vehicle operates on pre-agreed routes before tipping and moving to its garden waste recycling duties.

Since 2006 the Borough has introduced paper recycling to 27 schools.

Table 1.4 presents a description of the vehicles currently utilised for the collection of “dry” recyclables in Epsom and Ewell.

Table 1.4 Epsom and Ewell “Dry” Recycling Collection Vehicles

Type of Vehicle	Number of Vehicles	Payload	Owned by Council/Contactor/ Lease
Dennis Elite 2 (18 tonne) with Terberg Kerbsider body and 240-litre bin lifts	4	6 tonnes	2 are owned (DEFRA purchased) and 2 are leased from Specialist Fleet Services Ltd
Dennis Elite 1 26t RCV with Pheonix 2 body	1 (As detailed for additional work)	12 tonnes	Specialist Fleet Services Ltd

Over half of the flats in the Borough are provided with communal 240-litre wheeled bins for “dry” recycling material (again, source-separated). Residents of these properties are also provided with reusable sacks with which to transport materials to the communal containers.

As a result of the kerbside sorting of “dry” materials, no loads have been rejected by SWM as a result of contamination by residents. Non-recyclable materials are left behind in the box/bag and a note is left to inform the resident why this has happened and to confirm what can be recycled.

A programme of advertising, editorials, bin stickers and roadshows has resulted in a steadily increasing tonnage of kerbside “dry” recycling. A recycling rate for these materials of over 20% is now being achieved on a monthly basis. A participation survey completed in September 2005 estimated a 73% participation rate for the kerbside service. A noticeable increase in the performance of kerbside “dry” recycling accompanied the launch of garden waste recycling in November 2006.

1.6.2 Garden waste recycling

On 27th November 2006 Epsom & Ewell introduced a subscription-based kerbside garden waste recycling service, at a cost of £30 per annum for a 240-litre wheeled bin or £7.50pa for a 60-litre reusable sack. This was accompanied by a ban on the disposal of garden waste in refuse bins. Garden waste can also be recycled at the Epsom CA Site.

A recycling rate for garden waste of just under 10% is now being achieved on a monthly basis.

1.6.3 Bring Sites

Epsom and Ewell operates a network of 18 recycling bring-sites, receiving all the materials targeted by the kerbside service plus cardboard, plastic bottles, paper-based drinks and liquid-food cartons, books, printer cartridges and CDs/tapes.

Bring-sites use 240-litre wheeled bins for glass/cans and 1100-litre wheeled bins for newspapers & magazines/plastic bottles. All other materials are catered for by bespoke containers. As glass, cans and newspaper collections are made using the vehicles also engaged in kerbside collections it is not possible to fully calculate the tonnages recycled through bring-sites. However, it is clear that bring-sites tonnages have declined considerably since the introduction of the kerbside service in 2003.

1.6.4 Community Recycling Centres

Residents in the Borough can take recyclable materials to the CRC (Civic Amenity Site) at Blenheim Road. This facility is provided by SWM under its contract with the County Council. The Centre segregates the following materials for recycling:

- Glass
- Cans
- Newspapers and magazines
- Clothing and textiles
- Cardboard and mixed paper
- Bric-a-brac
- Hardcore and rubble
- Scrap metal
- Household batteries
- Car batteries
- Fire extinguishers
- Foil
- Fridges and freezers
- Garden waste
- Gas cylinders
- Engine oil and filters
- Mobile phones
- Plastic bottles

1.6.5 Materials End Markets and Disposal

Recyclables collected by the kerbside collection service are delivered to a number of points for 'disposal'. Glass, cans and newspapers/magazines are delivered to the CRC in Leatherhead, provided by SWM under a contract with the County Council. Garden waste is delivered to SWM's Epsom CRC.

SWM is responsible for sourcing end-markets for the material and the logistics involved. Some material is collected by the end-markets whereas some material is sent to them.

Textiles & clothing collected by the kerbside crews is delivered to the Epsom and Ewell depot in Epsom, from where the charity SCOPE collects it twice per week.

Plastic bottles collected from recycling centres are delivered the Leatherhead MRF operated by Grundons Ltd. Paper-based drinks and liquid-food cartons are collected and recycled by Tetrapak Ltd.

In January 2008 Epsom & Ewell will divert most of its cardboard recycling to SWM as part of the county-wide project to increase cardboard recycling. This will allow an expansion of cardboard recycling to other recycling centres in the borough.

Table 1.5 sets out the destinations of materials collected in 2007/08.

Table 1.5 Current Destinations of materials collected for recycling

Material	Destination
Newspaper and Magazines	Leatherhead CRC Site (SWM)
Steel and Aluminium Cans	Leatherhead CRC Site (SWM)
Mixed Glass	Leatherhead CRC Site (SWM)
Garden waste	Epsom CRC Site (SWM)
Clothing and Textiles	Collected by SCOPE from the Epsom & Ewell depot twice per week
Plastic bottles	Grundons MRF, Leatherhead
Paper-based drinks and liquid-food cartons	Tetrapak Ltd
Cardboard	Sevenside Recycling (moving to SWM January 2008)
CDs/Tapes	British Heart Foundation
Books	Oxfam

1.7 Bulky Waste Collection Service

Epsom and Ewell provides a bulky waste collection service to its residents at a basic rate of £16.40 per item, increasing with size. To encourage waste minimisation the Council is continuing to increase the price of bulky waste collections year-on-year. The service utilises a Leyland Daf Fa45 150 Euro2 Ti 7.5 tonne caged tipper with tail lift, crewed by a driver and 1 or 2 loaders depending on workload.

Epsom and Ewell partners The Vine Project and The British Heart Foundation to promote the re-use of furniture and large electrical items.

1.8 Trade Waste

Epsom and Ewell BC offers a chargeable collection service for commercial waste. Commercial waste customers are provided with 240-, 360-, 660- or 1100-litre wheeled containers or rolls of pre-paid sacks.

Commercial waste is collected co-mingled with domestic waste and is calculated as being 9.82% of the total residual waste collected, using the County Council's recognised formula. This resulted in a tonnage of 2,457 for the year 2006/07.

1.9 Additional Information

Epsom and Ewell does not provide a clinical waste collection service from domestic properties.

1.10 Future Plans

The dry recycling arrangements currently in place are cost effective, easily understood by users, maximise income and deliver in excess of 20% recycling.

The garden waste service introduced in November 2006 has increased the total recycling and composting percentage to c30%.

The Council has been successful in gaining further WRAP support for its home composting programme in 2008. 2008 will be the second year in which all Surrey councils have participated in the WRAP home composting offer. Epsom and Ewell was the first Surrey council to partner WRAP in this programme, in 2004.

Plastic bottle recycling has been extended to two further recycling centres during 2007/08. The council has requested further facilities for recycling paper-based drinks and liquid-food cartons from Tetrapak Ltd.

In February 2008 the council plans to introduce the kerbside collection of household batteries.

In October 2007 the council gave an "in-principle" approval to a significant extension of kerbside recycling services, to include food waste, plastic bottles and cardboard collections. This move will be timed to coincide with the renewal of the council's transport fleet at the end of 2008 in order to minimise costs and introduce new, more flexible collection vehicles. It is likely, therefore, that services will begin operating in early 2009.

Summary Sheet – Epsom and Ewell District Council

General

Demographic	Value
Size of Authority	3,400 ha
Population	68,500
Number of properties	29,293
Number of multi-occupancy properties	c.130
Rural population	None

Refuse Services

Service	Description
Refuse collection contractor	In-house Operational Services
Container(s) provided	240 litre wheeled bin
Collection frequency	Weekly
Tonnage 2006/07	22,562

Recycling Services

Service	Targeted materials	Container(s)	Contractor(s)	Other Details
Kerbside	Paper and Magazines	35 litre reusable sack	In-house Operational Services	Weekly collection
Kerbside	Mixed glass, Mixed Cans, Textiles and Clothing	55 litre box (textiles & clothing placed in black sack)	In-house Operational Services	Weekly collection
Organics	Garden waste	240-litre bins or 60-litre reusable sacks	In-house Operational Services	Fortnightly collection (subscription based)
Bring sites	Glass, cans, newspaper, magazines, plastic bottles, paper-based drinks and liquid-food cartons, clothing, textiles, cardboard, books, printer cartridges, CDs & tapes.	Various	In-house Operational Services for paper, glass, cans. Contractor collections for all other materials.	

Other Controlled Waste Services

Service	Description
Bulky waste collection	Driver and 1-2 loaders, 7.5t caged tipper
Clinical waste collection	None

Statistics and Targets

Data	Figure
2007/08 Statutory Recycling target	N/A
BVPI 84 - Kg of waste collected per head of population	416kg/head 2006/07
2006/07 recycling rate	20.81%
Current recycling rate	29.95% YTD Dec 2007
Achievable recycling target for 2009	To be agreed in line with final service provisions. The recently approved waste strategy, incorporating the kerbside collection of food waste, cardboard and plastic bottles, is designed to ultimately produce around 50% recycling per year. The strategy is planned to be rolled out between February and August 2009.