Overview and Scrutiny Committee **19 November 2026**

Report of the Director of Environment and Leisure

Bring Recycling Site Review

1. Purpose of Report

To provide Members with an overview of current bring recycling site provision across the Borough and seek recommendations on the future approach to service delivery.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to CONSIDER the information presented and determine whether bring recycling site provision should form part of a future work programme review, providing a steer on the areas it wishes to explore further before making recommendations on the future of the service.

3. Detail

Bring recycling sites were introduced across the Borough in 1994, providing residents with opportunities to recycle a range of materials at a time when comprehensive kerbside recycling services were not available. At its peak, the network comprised 25 bring sites located across the Borough, accepting materials including glass, paper, cardboard, cartons and aluminium cans.

In addition to Council-operated locations, several bring sites were historically situated at major supermarket locations across the Borough. Over time, several of these sites were removed at the request of the host supermarkets, which chose to make their own recycling arrangements and take responsibility for the provision of recycling facilities for their customers.

Since the introduction and subsequent expansion of kerbside recycling services, the role of bring sites has changed significantly. Residents can now recycle most materials previously accepted at bring banks through kerbside collections, increasing convenience and accessibility. Most recently, the introduction of Simpler Recycling arrangements has enabled cartons to be collected through the green-lidded recycling bin from March 2026. As a result, the collection of cartons at bring recycling sites ceased in July 2026.

The network currently comprises 16 bring recycling sites, primarily providing facilities for glass recycling. In addition, textile and book banks are available at the Sainsbury's sites in Beeston and Kimberley. Details of the current network, material tonnages collected and associated recycling credit income is included within **Appendix 1**. Results of a recycling site audit can be found in **Appendix 2.**

Whilst the network continues to provide a recycling opportunity for residents and generates an ongoing income stream (around £24,000 per annum in recycling credit income), many of the sites and containers are approaching the end of their operational life and require significant investment. The Council owns most of the glass recycling banks and these would need to be replaced to ensure continued compliance with current safety and operational requirements. Initial estimates indicate that investment in the region of £40,000 would be required to renew the existing infrastructure.

With the level of investment required, and given the availability of comprehensive kerbside collection services for most recyclable materials, it is timely to review the future role of bring recycling sites within the Borough's wider recycling offer. Members are therefore invited to consider the options set out at **Appendix 1** and provide a view on the future direction of provision across the Borough.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

The bring recycling site network continues to contribute to the Council's recycling performance and generates around £24,000 per annum in recycling credit income. However, the majority of the Council-owned recycling banks are approaching the end of their operational life and will require significant capital investment to maintain the network and ensure ongoing compliance with safety and operational requirements. Members should therefore consider the financial implications of any future service model, alongside the environmental benefits, resident accessibility and the availability of comprehensive kerbside recycling services.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Council is the waste collection authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and meets its statutory recycling duties through the kerbside service. There is no legal duty to provide bring recycling sites. Their provision is discretionary and the Council may retain, reduce or withdraw them.
Recycling credit income is paid by the County Council as waste disposal authority.

As the report notes, its future is uncertain following the introduction of extended producer responsibility and it should not be relied upon.
Several sites are on land the Council does not own.

Any change at those sites will need to take account of the arrangements with the landowner.

If the review leads to proposals to reduce or withdraw provision, the Council must have due regard to the public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, and the Equality Impact Assessment referred to in the report must be completed before any decision is taken.

There is no statutory requirement to consult, but if consultation is undertaken it must be carried out fairly and the responses considered.

No decision affecting the service is being taken at this stage and no legal implications arise from the recommendation itself.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

At this stage, there are no direct climate change implications arising from the report. From a climate perspective, kerbside recycling collections generally provide the most efficient means of collecting recyclable materials and reduce the need for residents to make separate vehicle journeys to recycling sites. However, bring recycling sites continue to provide an alternative recycling option for residents who may have limited storage capacity at home or who require additional recycling facilities. The climate change implications of any proposed changes to bring recycling site provision will be considered as part of any future detailed assessment.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

There are no direct equality implications arising from this report. Should the review result in proposals to change bring recycling site provision, a full Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken and reported as part of the decision-making process.

11. Background Papers

Nil.

Appendix

Background

The current bring recycling sites network comprises 17 sites located across the Borough. Glass recycling facilities are available at all locations, while textile and book recycling banks are provided at selected sites where there is sufficient demand and available space. The current provision is detailed in table 1.

	Glass	Textiles	Books
Albert Street, Eastwood	✓		
Beeston Youth and Community	✓		
Bramcote Leisure Centre	✓	✓	
Chilwell Barracks (Private)	✓		
Chilwell Olympia	✓		
Derby Street, Beeston	✓		
Festival Inn, Trowell	✓		
Greasley Community Centre	✓		
Hickings Lane, Stapleford	✓		
Leyton Crescent, Beeston Rylands	✓	✓	
Morrisons, Eastwood	✓		
Nottingham Uni, Beeston	✓		
Nuthall Methodist Church	✓		
Sainsburys', Beeston		✓	✓
Sainsburys', Kimberley		✓	✓
Sun Inn, Eastwood	✓		
Village Hotel, Toton	✓		

Table 1: Bring recycling sites across the Borough.

Whilst the network is primarily focused on glass recycling, it continues to support residents who prefer or require an alternative to kerbside recycling services. Information relating to material tonnages collected, site performance and associated recycling credit income is provided later within this appendix.

Bring recycling site tonnages

Glass recycling tonnages vary significantly across the bring site network, reflecting differences in location, accessibility and usage (Table 2 and Figure 1). A small number of sites account for a disproportionately large share of material collected, with Morrisons in Eastwood being by far the highest performing site, collecting 727 tonnes over the six-year period. Hickings Lane in Stapleford (200 tonnes) and Derby Street in Beeston (111 tonnes) are the next highest-performing locations.

In contrast, several sites attract comparatively low levels of use, with Village Hotel in Toton (9 tonnes), Nottingham University in Beeston (18 tonnes) and Chilwell Barracks (24 tonnes) collectively accounting for a relatively small proportion of the total material collected. This variation in performance highlights the differences made by individual sites.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Village Hotel, Toton	1.24	1.56	2.48	0.91	1.49
Nottingham Uni, Beeston	1.49	2.28	4.70	3.08	3.90
Chilwell Barracks (Private)	5.25	1.99	4.00	2.02	3.82
Festival Inn, Trowell	6.60	2.65	5.65	4.67	9.96
Beeston Youth and Community Centre	2.11	4.50	8.41	9.18	10.10
Greasley Community Centre	8.61	8.04	9.78	10.53	10.23
Albert Street, Eastwood	13.60	6.84	9.76	7.95	7.64
Sun Inn, Eastwood	4.59	6.79	16.12	15.56	16.31
Chilwell Olympia	14.10	7.61	13.21	16.20	15.42
Nuthall Methodist Church	15.75	8.33	15.27	17.50	15.73
Leyton Crescent, Beeston	18.19	9.48	14.57	15.40	15.36
Bramcote Leisure Centre	16.48	7.33	20.41	21.31	19.02
Derby Street, Beeston	12.50	6.25	18.26	30.58	27.52
Hickings Lane, Stapleford	38.79	29.37	34.38	29.72	22.60
Morrisons, Eastwood	134.03	94.63	121.17	125.30	113.59

Table 2: Glass bring bank tonnages across the Borough over the last five years.

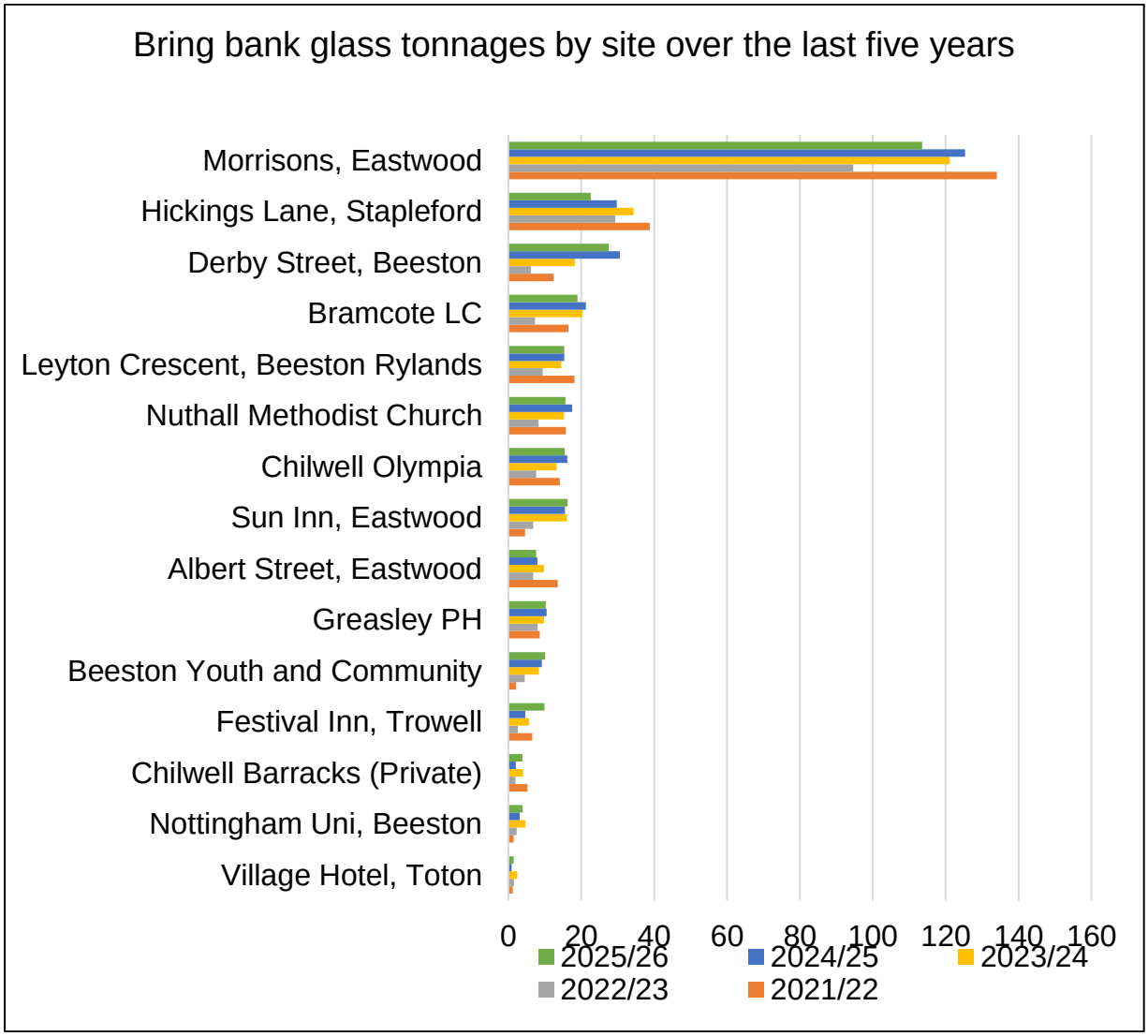


Figure 1: Collected glass recycling tonnages by site over the last five years.

A review of site tonnages indicates that a relatively small number of locations account for most of the material collected through the bring site network. This information should be considered alongside the investment required to maintain and replace existing infrastructure, the accessibility of sites, and the availability of kerbside recycling services when assessing future service provision.

As shown in Figure 2, tonnages collected through the bring banks have remained relatively consistent over the last five years, with annual collections ranging between approximately 225 and 345 tonnes. Following a reduction in overall tonnages in 2022/23, collection volumes recovered and have stabilised, indicating continued use of the network by residents. Glass remains the predominant material collected, accounting for most of the tonnage collected each year, whilst textiles and books make a smaller but consistent contribution to overall recycling performance.

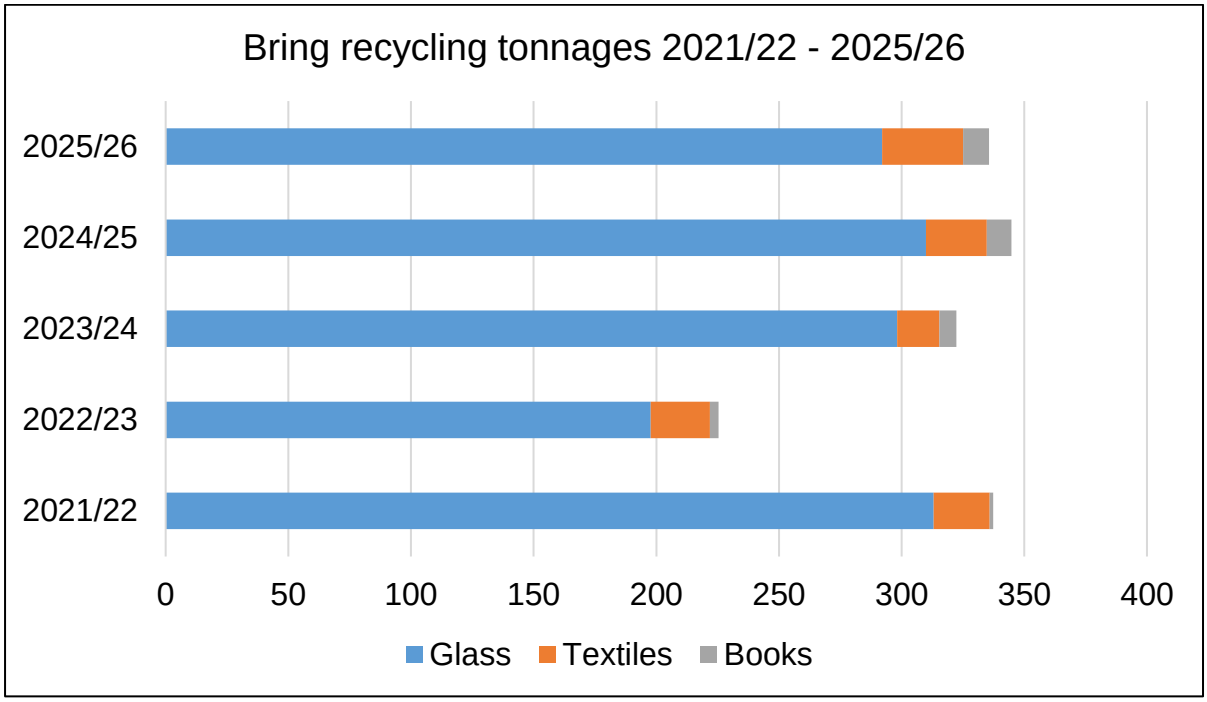


Figure 2: Bring recycling site tonnage by material 2021/22 – 2025/26

Figure 3 demonstrates the contribution of different recycling collection methods to the Borough's overall recycling performance. The data shows that kerbside recycling collections account for most of the material captured, with the green-lidded recycling bin representing the largest proportion of overall tonnage. Glass collected through kerbside services also makes a significant contribution. Whilst tonnages collected through bring recycling sites are comparatively lower, the data shows that the network continues to make a consistent contribution to the Borough's overall recycling rate, providing an additional recycling option for residents and complementing existing kerbside collection services.

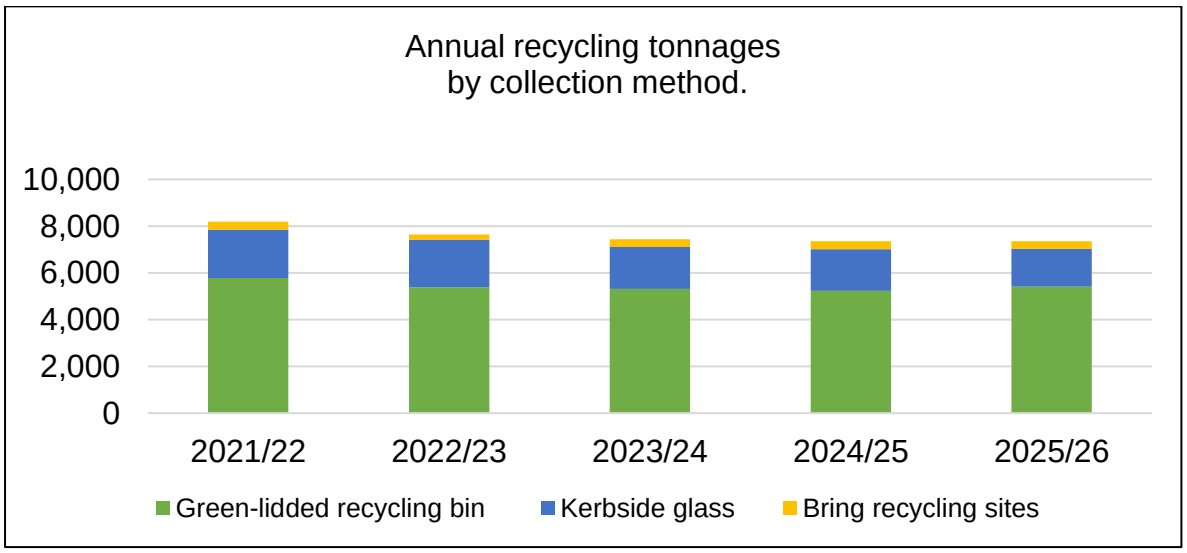


Figure 3: Annual recycling tonnages by collection method.

Recycling site investment



Image 1: Hickings Lane, Stapleford

Most of the Council's bring recycling infrastructure is now ageing and requires significant investment if the current network is to be retained. As shown in Image 1, the existing recycling banks are show all sites would require refurbishment works to improve their appearance, accessibility and ongoing usability.

Current estimates indicate that the replacement cost of a single glass recycling bank is around £500, with the cost of replacing all the banks estimated at £25,000. In addition, site refurbishment works, including surfacing, fencing, signage and general environmental improvements, are estimated to cost approximately £15,000 across the Borough. The total investment required to maintain the existing provision is therefore estimated to be in the region of £40,000.

The bring recycling site network generates £24,000 per annum in recycling credit income. However, the future of recycling credit payments remains uncertain following the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) funding arrangements. Whilst the longer-term position is still emerging, there is potential for existing funding mechanisms to be incorporated into wider EPR payments, and therefore future income levels should not be assumed.

Moving forward

Given the changing role of bring recycling sites, the availability of comprehensive kerbside recycling collections and the investment required to sustain the current infrastructure, the future direction of bring recycling site provision across the borough as part of a broader review of recycling services needs to be considered.

The following options are presented as a starting point for discussion and are not intended to be exhaustive.

Option 1 - Retain and Invest

Continue to operate the existing bring recycling site network and invest in the replacement of ageing infrastructure to maintain current levels of provision across the Borough.

Option 2 - Rationalise Provision

Review and reduce the number of bring recycling sites, focusing investment on the highest-performing and most strategically located sites whilst removing underutilised locations.

Option 3 - Phase Out Bring Recycling Sites

Progressively withdraw bring recycling site provision, recognising that most recyclable materials are now collected through kerbside recycling services and that alternative recycling arrangements are available to residents.

Option	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option 1: Retain and invest	Maintain the current network of 16 bring recycling sites and replace infrastructure as required.	• Maintains existing level of service across the Borough. • Retains a recycling option for residents with limited storage capacity. • Preserves recycling credit income. • Avoids reduction in local recycling facilities.	• Requires significant capital investment. • Duplicates services already available through kerbside collections for most materials. • Ongoing maintenance and replacement costs.
Option 2: Rationalise provision	Review site performance and retain only the highest-performing and most strategically located sites.	• Reduces capital investment requirements. • Retains a level of bring site provision across the Borough. • Focuses resources on the most heavily used locations. • Continues to generate some recycling credit income.	• Reduction in accessibility for some residents. • Potential public concern regarding closure of sites. • Reduction in overall tonnage captured through bring sites.

Option	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option 3: Phase out bring recycling sites	Gradually remove bring recycling provision and rely primarily on kerbside collection services.	• Avoids future capital investment in replacement infrastructure. • Simplifies service delivery. • Reflects the shift towards kerbside recycling collections. • Reduces ongoing maintenance and servicing requirements.	• Loss of a recycling option for residents who prefer or rely on bring sites. • Loss of recycling credit income. • Potential impact on residents with limited storage space or specific recycling needs. • Potential reduction in overall recycling tonnage.

Table 3: Advantages and Disadvantages of suggested options

Equality Impact Assessment Considerations

At this stage, no changes to bring recycling site provision are proposed and, therefore, a full Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed. Should any of the options identified within this report be taken further, a detailed Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the subsequent appraisal process. This will ensure that the potential impacts on residents, particularly those with protected characteristics or who may be disproportionately affected by any changes to service provision, are fully considered before any decisions are made.

Next Steps

Given the availability of comprehensive kerbside recycling services, the ongoing contribution made by bring sites to the borough's recycling performance, and the level of investment required to sustain the current network, consideration should be given to the information and options presented within this report to determine whether a more detailed review of bring recycling site provision should form part of the Committee's future work programme.

Such a review could consider the options outlined within this report, alongside any alternative approaches to ensure the Council's recycling infrastructure remains effective, financially sustainable and aligned to resident needs. The review could also consider whether public consultation should be undertaken to inform any future proposals; however, this would be likely to extend the overall programme and would require approval through the appropriate decision-making process, including Cabinet approval where necessary.