



Future-proof
your waste
collection
service

URS and Planning Guidance

Where to start...



One of the most important opportunities for using underground refuse / waste collection systems (URS) is that of 'new' housing developments. The installation of underground bins confers significant benefits to property developers and local authorities. Not only do URS future-proof waste collection services against potential changes, they also reduce revenue and capital costs.

Nevertheless, effective planning guidance is critical to URS. Planning guidance will tell developers what systems are acceptable to the council and specify critical aspects of their installation.

While producing effective planning guidance has always required thoughtful consideration and foresight, URS make that particularly important. APSE Solutions fully understands this and has therefore developed a high-level list of factors that authorities ought to be considering when developing such planning guidance:

Authority Expected Use

- What level of URS collection method dependence is there likely to be?
- What type of locations / uses will URS be used for?
- Will they be new build or retro-fit?
- Material Streams (consider current and future / wider uses i.e., glass only, Food, Textiles, WEE etc.)
- Location of units in relation to other collections now and in the future, round configuration, size of collection crews (one, two, or three inc. the driver)?
- Servicing demand, scheduled, ad-hoc, are all waste streams the same?
- Will container washing be required and if so, how will it be completed?
- Type of authority collection or collection and disposal?

Environmental

- Flood Risks?
- Likely exposure to high winds?
- Cold weather / snow risk?
- Suitability of the area / locations for underground excavations – Semi / fully underground, size of units?
- Number of overhead restrictions e.g., trees and low bridges?

We have developed a high-level list of factors that authorities ought to consider when developing planning guidance

Service Vehicles

- Maximum vehicle size / gross weights that are practical?
 - One standard vehicle size or two i.e., normal and restricted access size?
- Any / number of height restrictions bridges, trees etc.
- This system has the potential to 're-write the rule book' meaning department structures within the Council / cross vehicle usage, any existing use of demountable / roll on-off vehicles, other potential usage, fly-tipping, bulky collections, civil contingency, winter maintenance, skip work, highways, grounds maintenance, plant movements etc. all need to be considered.
- Are all waste streams suited to or require compaction?
- How is servicing demand best met, scheduled, ad-hoc, or managed by AI technology? Are all waste streams the same? Are the disposal locations and volumes consistent?
- Disposal site locations and operational hours?
- How are the rounds currently configured, will this change, should / could they change?
- Replacement vehicle options / considerations?
- Staff availability, operational hours for disposal points and collections, crew size etc.

Why are all these factors so important?

While the answers to all of these questions seem at first glance remote from a planning guidance document, they will determine the preferred collection unit attachment mechanism via the identification of the most appropriate collection vehicle methodology. This, in turn, determines the developer planning guidance.

There are many more collection vehicle options available than most would immediately consider, with an even greater range of potential benefits to the authority over many service areas. One such potential option is exemplified in the picture on the front cover.

However, there are many more options, with specific features and advantages that are waiting to be realised, but this will only be possible if the planning guidance specification supports them.



APSE Solutions are able to provide you with bespoke consultancy support to assist you in navigating the full range of potential benefits URS can offer.

Please do not hesitate to email either Ben Parsons at bparsons@apse.org.uk or Patrick Knowles pknowles@apse.org.uk for an informal discussion about how we can assist.