

## **Appendix 2 – Analysis of Bulky Waste Survey Usage across Leeds**

In 2012/13, 34,500 bulky collections were requested (around 660 per week). Only a small minority of Leeds' households use the bulky waste collection service (around 8%), with 97% of users using the service three times or less a year. The 3% of households who used the service more than three times in 2012/13 equate to 673 households; around 0.2% of households in Leeds.

The number of households using the service in each ward varied widely in 2012/13, from 1,042 households in Morley North ward (10.4% of households in the ward) to only 255 in Headingley ward (4.1% of households in the ward). Chart 1 opposite shows the numbers of households using the service by ward.

In order to check that any changes to the service will not unduly affect any particular groups of residents we have undertaken significant analysis. Whilst we do not have detailed data about the people who have used the service, we can look at whether service use is linked to any other factors in the population, e.g. if the service was used more by older people, we would expect those wards with greater proportions of older people in them to have proportionally more residents using the service.

Chart 2 shows the proportion of residents in each ward who used the service in 2012/13 compared to the number of residents aged 60 or over. A "correlation coefficient" describes the statistical correlation between two sets of data. The closer this value is to 1 the stronger the correlation. The correlation coefficient between the proportion of households in the ward using the service and the number of residents aged 60 or above is 0.27. There is therefore no correlation between the proportion of households using the service in the each ward and the number of residents aged 60 years or above.

Chart 3 shows the proportion of residents in each ward who used the service in 2012/13 compared to the Economic Deprivation Index 2009 for each ward. The correlation coefficient between these two sets of data is 0.24. There is therefore no correlation between the proportion of households using the service and the level of deprivation in each ward.

Finally, Chart 4 shows the proportion of residents in each ward who used the service in 2012/13, compared to the percentage of job seekers allowance claimants in April-Jun 2013. The correlation coefficient between these two sets of data is 0.23. There is therefore no correlation between the proportion of households using the service and the proportion of residents claiming Job Seekers Allowance.

This analysis therefore strongly suggests that there is no link between the usage of the bulky waste collection service and vulnerable groups, such as the elderly or people on low incomes. The restriction of the service should not therefore have a more significant effect on any of these vulnerable groups.

Chart 1: Households Using the Bulky Waste Collection Service by Ward, 2012/13

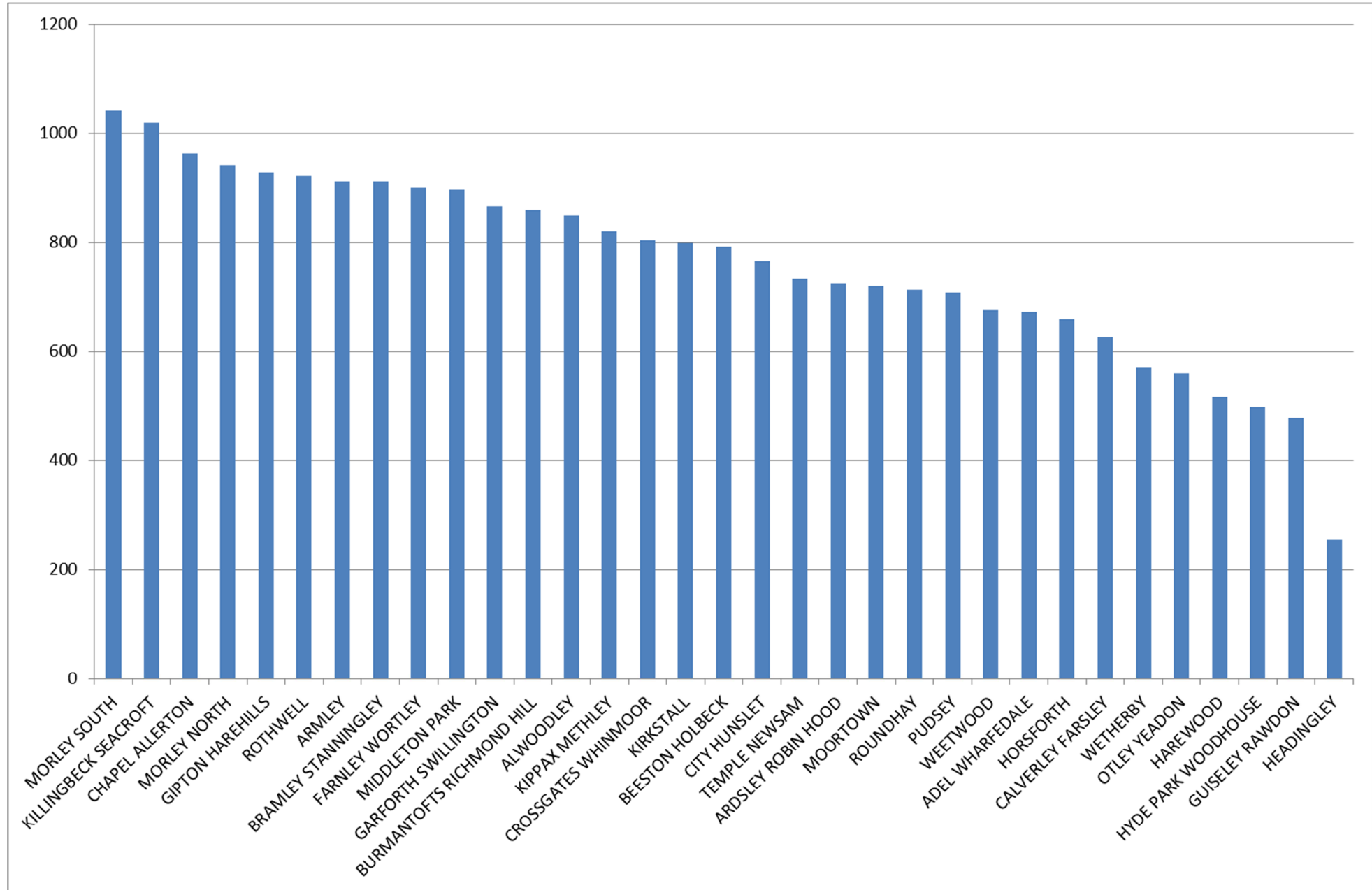


Chart 2: Proportion of households using the service in each ward 2012/13, compared to the number of residents aged 60+ (census 2011).

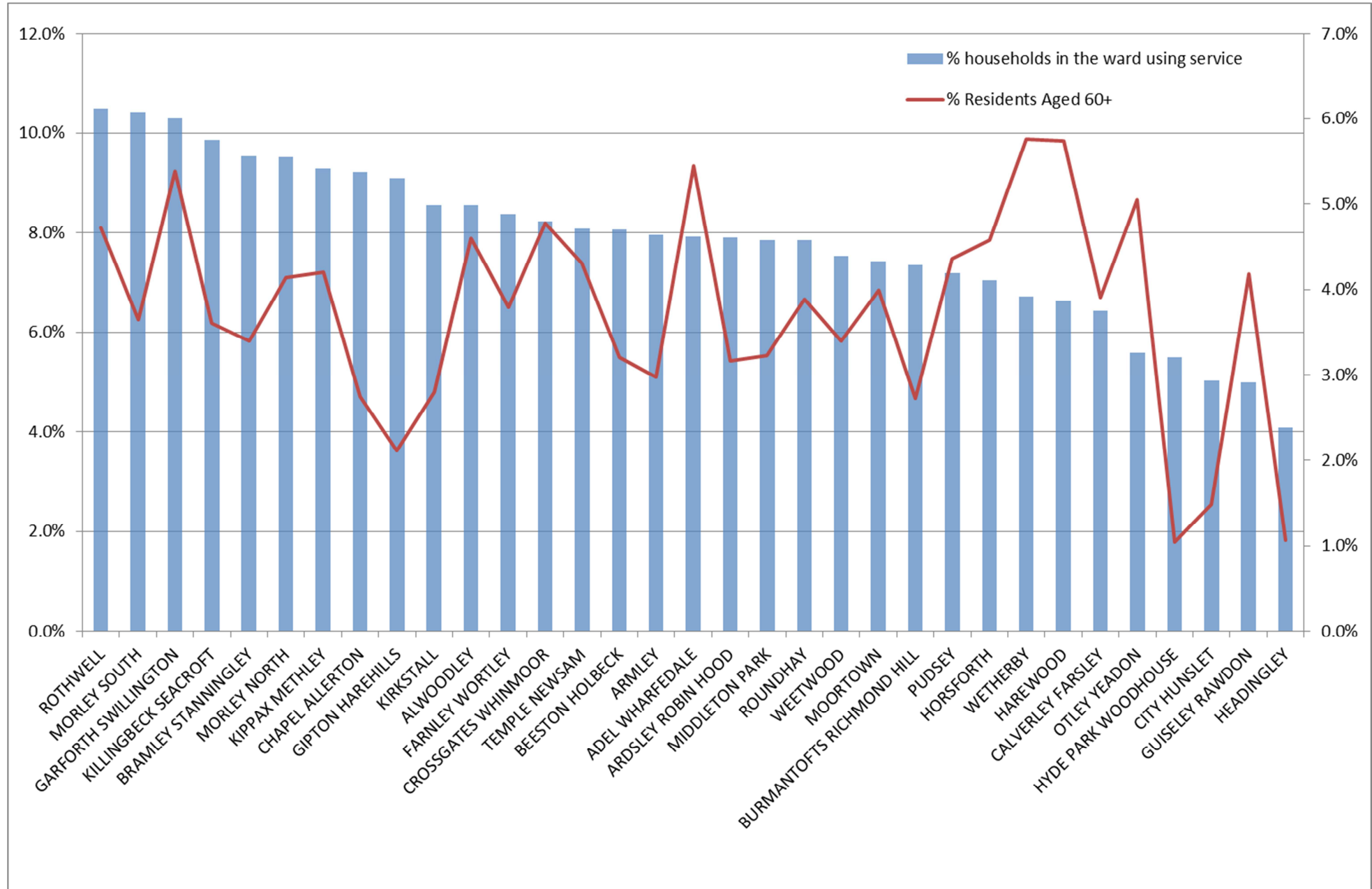


Chart 3: Proportion of households using the service in each ward 2012/13, compared to Economic Deprivation Index Score 2009.

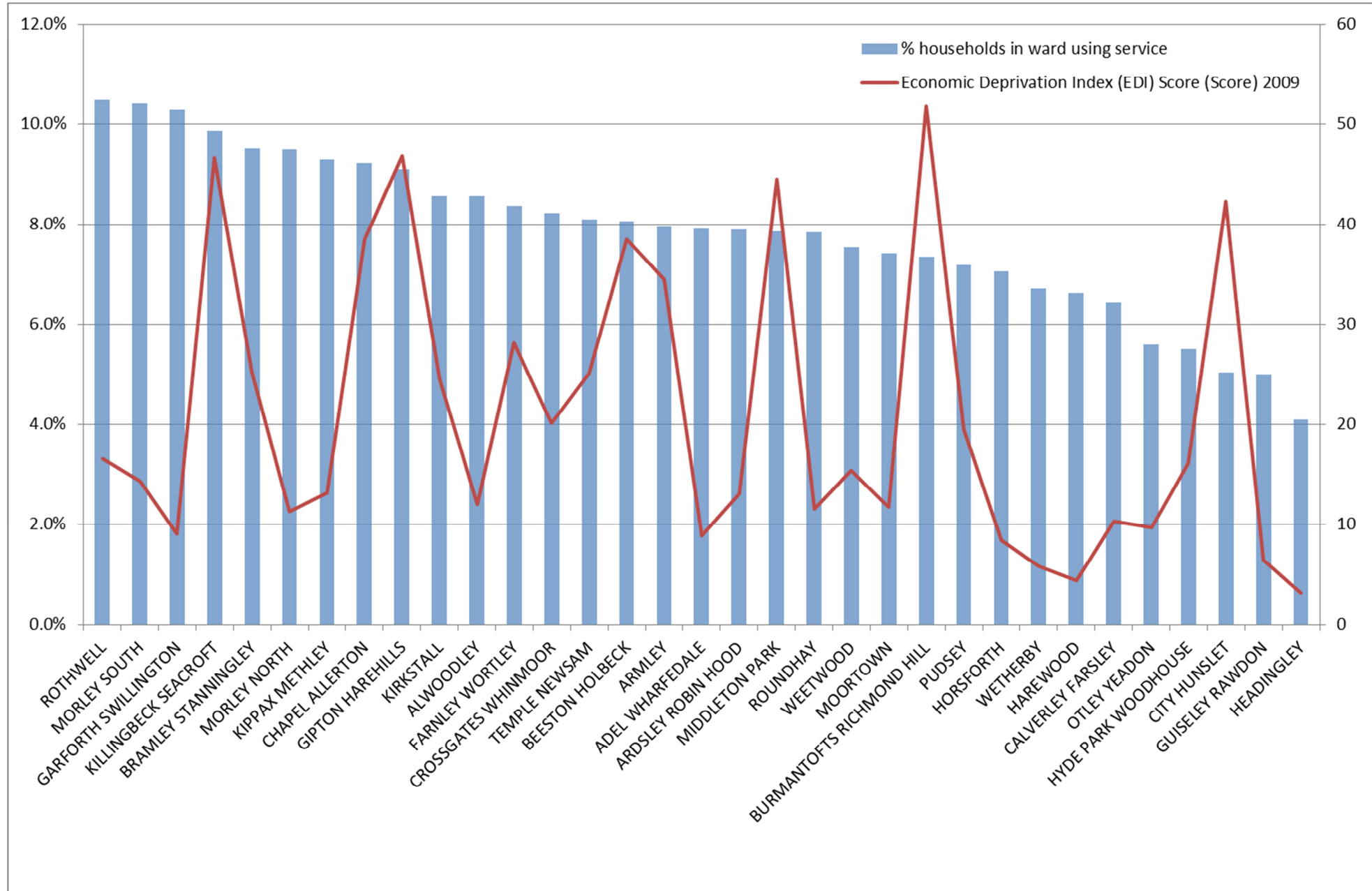
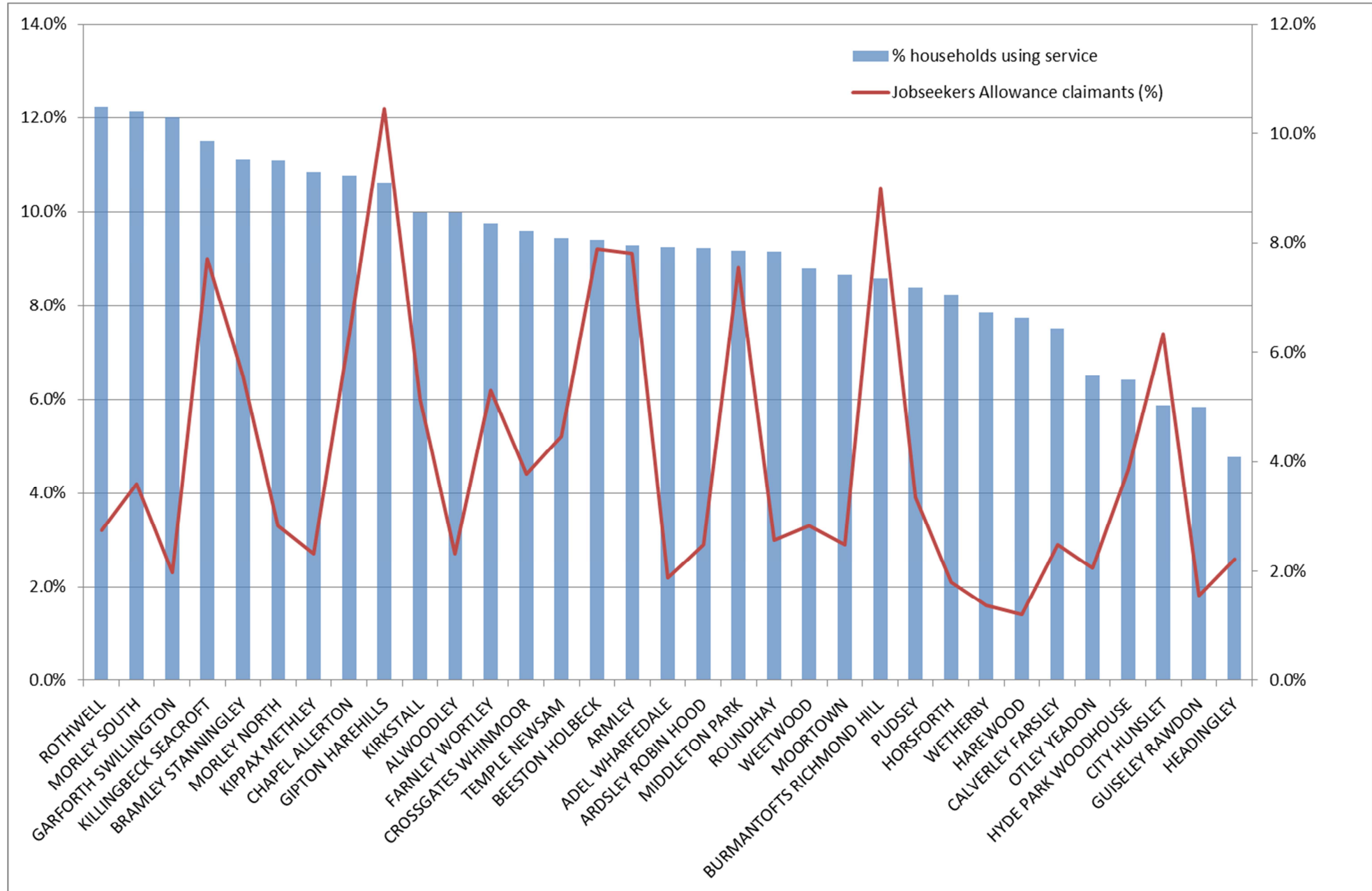


Chart 4: Proportion of households using the service in each ward 2012/13, compared to percentage of Job Seekers Allowance claimants



### Appendix 3 –Changes to bulky waste collection policies and the prevalence of fly-tipping

There is no evidence that restricting usage of bulky waste services leads to an increase in fly-tipping. Each year local authorities have been required to report flytipping figures to DEFRA. Table 1 below shows the trend for the last seven years. The national picture is one of falling fly-tipping numbers. This is in a context over the same period of Local Authorities restricting usage of bulky waste collection services, and the introduction of other services such as fortnightly black bin collections. The latest data available suggests that at least 84% of Local Authorities now charge for bulky collections, but there has been no national increase in fly-tipping.

**Table 1 – Flytipping incidents reported to DEFRA, all England LAs**

Year	Total Incidents reported
2007/08	1,284,123
2008/09	1,165,003
2009/10	946,906
2010/11	819,571
2011/12	744,414
2012/13	711,493

Bulky waste collection services have been a topic of a great deal of discussion with the other Core Cities. Of the other seven core cities only one, Nottingham City Council, operates an unrestricted and free service. All of the others either restrict the number of collections, or charge for collection. Table 2 below summarises the current policy in each of the eight core cities.

Table 2 also describes the numbers of fly-tips reported to DEFRA each year since 2009/10 by the core cities. This table clearly shows that, for the core cities there is no relationship between the level of fly-tipping and the regime that is in place for the collection of bulky waste.

It should also be noted that Leeds is only proposing to restrict residents to three collections per year. We are not considering charging or restricting collections any further than this. As Appendix 2 set out only 3% of households used the service more than three times in 2012/13 which equates to 673 households (out of 350,000); around 0.2% of the households in Leeds.

Our conclusion is therefore that there is unlikely to be a link between restricting the numbers of bulky waste collections and any increase in fly-tipping and that the changes to policies proposed in Leeds, are highly unlikely to lead to any increase in fly-tipping.

**Table 2: Core Cities Bulky Waste Collection Services and DEFRA fly-tipping returns 2009 to 2013.**

Core City	Number of Free Collections	Chargeable Collections	Fly-Tip Incidents Reported to DEFRA			
			2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Birmingham City Council	1	£25 per collection	26,442	18,311	13,510	14,229
Nottingham City Council	52	No charges	419	7,050	4,872	6,933
Liverpool City Council	5	No charges	6,105	5,740	4,083	3,633
Sheffield City Council	0	Ordinary rate: 3 at £18 rising to 10-12 at £54 per collection Concessionary rate: 3 at £10 rising to 10-12 at £35 per collection	2,782	4,044	2,972	3,367
Bristol City Council	0	£15 per collection Limited to 3 per year	5,185	6,312	4,921	3,306
Leeds City Council	12	No charges	8,285	11,628	4,418	2,805
Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Council	0	£15 per collection	3,847	2,562	2,102	2,804
Manchester City Council	1	£27 per collection	5,719	4,302	3,829	2,065

#### **Appendix 4 – Levels of Reuse and work with the Voluntary Sector Furniture Reuse Organisations**

Many items collected by the Council could be collected for reuse by other organisations through the existing network of third sector organisations or via websites such as Freecycle or eBay.

In December 2011 Leeds City Council received support from the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP). Consultants CO2 Sense were commissioned to undertake a study of how Leeds City Council manages bulky waste. This included a review of the voluntary sector furniture reuse organisations (FROs) in Leeds.

The Council works closely with the following Leeds-based FRO's:

- Emmaus Leeds
- Leeds & Moortown Furniture Store
- Revive Leeds
- St. Judes /St Vincent de Paul
- Safe Haven
- South Leeds Alternative Technology Enterprise (SLATE)
- Sydney Bridge

Most of the FROs collect reusable furniture from households and either make items available for free to referred clients from Council departments and social services agencies, or sell items in retail shops. The exception to this is Revive Leeds who does not provide a collection service. Their re-use shop is situated at the East Leeds Household Waste Sort Site (HWSS) and receives donations direct from the public as they visit the HWSS. Re-usable items are sold to the public.

It is estimated that the Leeds based FROs collect 600 tonnes of reusable furniture each year and undertake over 24,000 collections. FROs are currently supported by Leeds City Council through the provision of 'recycling credits'; payments per tonne of bulky items collected and reused and therefore diverted from landfill. The reuse credits paid are equivalent to the full cost of disposal to landfill i.e. landfill tax and gate fee. In 2012/13 Leeds City Council paid FROs £43,200 and 600 tonnes of furniture were reused.

The WRAP study estimated that the cost of collection to the council of its own bulky waste collection service was around £14 per collection, compared to a cost to the council of around £5 for a collection by an FRO (including payment of reuse credits). It is clear therefore that, even on purely financial grounds it makes sense to divert as many collections as possible to FROs. From a non-financial basis there are also other benefits such as the provision of usable furniture at low cost to vulnerable groups, the offer of a faster service, and the offer of a service from inside the property.

We estimate that in 2012/13 Leeds City Council collected over 1,300 tonnes of items through the 34,500 bulky waste collections undertaken. A WRAP report in 2012 estimated that around 24% of items collected through the bulky waste services in the UK were reusable and that a further 16% could be reusable with slight repair. Approximately a quarter of electrical and electronic items were assessed as being reusable.

The Council has been actively working with and supporting FROs in Leeds in order to build skills and capacity within this sector in the following areas:



## **Stock Control Systems and Capacity**

FROs have struggled with systems to manage more efficiently the scale of furniture and other items they are collecting. Leeds City Council has supported the FROs with funding from the LCC Transition Fund to contribute towards the cost of stock control and collection/delivery scheduling systems. Working closely with six of the FROs, Waste Services managed the procurement of a stock control system and on-line booking calendar in line with council priorities to work with the community sector and develop partnership working.

The provision of the software will allow improved tracking of collections, donations. In addition, it will also help the groups to maintain and increase the social benefits to the residents of Leeds that they already provide; free and low cost furniture items for those in need, jobs, training, volunteering and apprentice opportunities.

The stock control system has been installed at all participating groups and is in the process of being commissioned.

## **Developing a Single Point of Contact for Leeds FROs.**

A barrier to increasing the level of use of FROs in Leeds has been that there is no single point of contact for all the reuse organisations. We are now working with the FROs to develop an on-line booking calendar ICT system which will enable the development of more integrated working with the Council's in-house bulky waste collection service and help us to develop better systems for diverting more re-usable waste items arising in the LCC bulky waste service to the groups. This will contribute to our key priorities of reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and increasing our recycling/re-use rate. The aim is that when residents contact the Council to request a bulky waste collection, any reusable items can be booked directly for collection by the nearest or most appropriate FRO using a shared live on-line booking calendar accessible to both the Council and the partner FROs.

As the FROs collect from within properties and are able to respond more quickly, items are likely to remain dry and reusable and this should allow the interception of a greater quantity of reusable furniture that would have otherwise been collected for disposal by the bulky waste service.

## **Sorting and Collection from LCC HWSS**

Items collected by Leeds City Council are generally taken to one of the city's Household Waste Sorting Sites (HWSS). Crews sort items to be recycled.

At the Seacroft HWSS, householders are encouraged to drop off any reusable items directly at the Revive Leeds reuse shop. The shop continues to be very well supported by the public and in 2012-13 167.5 tonnes of furniture, household items, bric a brac etc. were reused. All other HWSS have reuse containers for the dry storage of reusable household items and furniture and the site teams encourage the public to put reusable items into the reuse containers. Each site is partnered with a specific FRO who regularly collects items from the reuse container. In 2012-13, 41.9 tonnes of furniture (2953 items) from the HWSS were reused via this partnership scheme.

## **Promotion of reuse**

The Council website widely promotes the reuse of items as a first option for householders to consider when discarding items. This occurs on the webpages that refer to the bulky waste service where Freegle, Freecycle, the Revive Leeds reuse shop are all promoted and there are links to the websites of the FROs. The individual webpages for each HWSS reminds householders about the presence of the reuse container for reusable furniture, bikes, bric a brac etc. and the new A-Z feature follows the waste hierarchy by promoting reuse before recycling and disposal wherever possible.

The Council has supported the FROs to develop their "Too Good to Throw Away" leaflet which is widely distributed and copies have been provided to Leeds Housing to provide to new tenants and those giving notice so they are aware of the FRO as a source of low cost furniture and as a means of reusing unwanted items.