

InPost Parcel Lockers – Sustainability Benefits Statement

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Introduction

This statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for the siting of the InPost parcel locker.

It is important to identify the key sustainability benefits that InPost parcel lockers can achieve, as these benefits constitute a material consideration that should be given significant weight in favour of the application.

Key Sustainability Benefits – Greener Delivery

The importance of Click & Collect facilities such as the InPost parcel lockers are recognised by Government as an important and legitimate facility that meets the needs of consumers in today's dynamic retail environment.

Parcel deliveries are a major contributor of harmful emissions, congestion, and road accidents in the UK. The key benefit of InPost parcel lockers is that rather than driving from one home to the next, couriers cover fewer miles by delivering multiple parcels in a single trip.

InPost Lockers are available 24/7, so parcels are always delivered first time. This means no wasted journeys or extra trips for re-deliveries. If more parcels are delivered to lockers, we would have fewer vans on our roads and only a 1/3 of the emissions.

With more and more of us going online instead of heading out to the shops, there are more delivery vehicles on the roads than ever before. As a result, congestion and transport-related emissions have risen significantly, particularly in cities with large populations where grid-locked roads have become the norm. At the same time local Councils are working hard to reach cleaner air targets and lockers help reduce CO2 emissions by up to two-thirds compared to home delivery.

As the popularity of online shopping is unlikely to wane anytime soon, change is needed to prevent a continued toll on the environment. Traditional home delivery involves couriers delivering individual parcels to individual households, whereas locker delivery enables couriers to deliver multiple parcels to a single location. This means couriers can spend less time travelling from home-to-home and make their journeys more efficient (e.g., one stop with 50 drops versus 50 different stops). Locker deliveries also do not rely on people being in to receive their parcels. Parcels can be delivered first-time without any need for second and third delivery attempts, or trips to depots when parcels cannot be delivered. These changes alone could cut CO2 emissions by up to two-thirds.

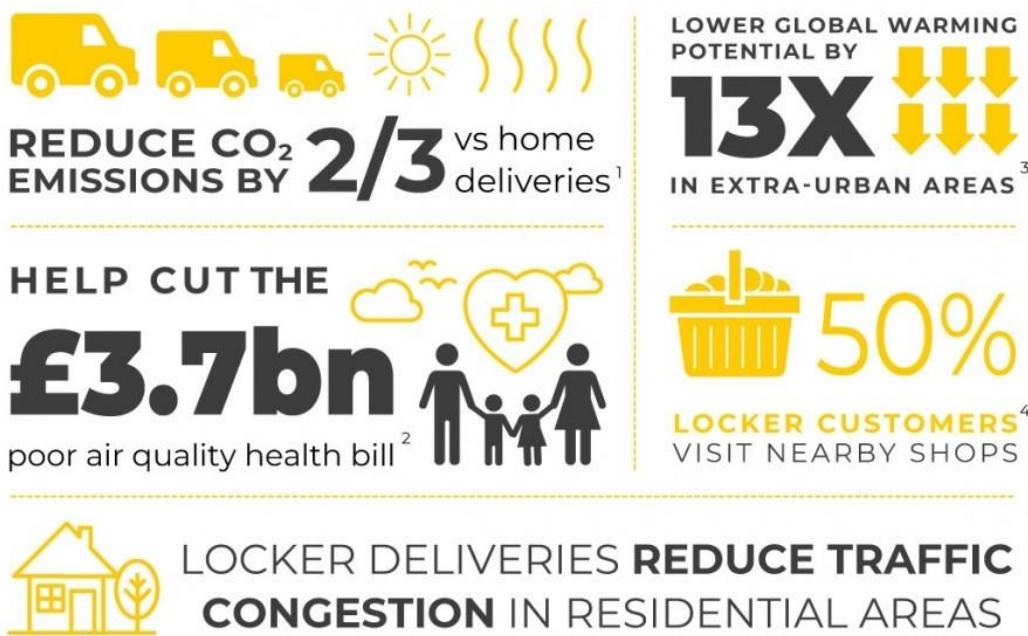
Locker delivery has also been shown to reduce mileage on the road by up to 95% per parcel compared to home delivery, reducing its contribution to global warming by 3 times in urban areas. This increases to 13 times within extra urban areas.

Air quality is another area that lockers can help to improve. Nitrous oxide from road vehicles has been on the decline since 2010, but the proportion from vans has kept on increasing. If parcels are grouped into locker drops, we can help to clean up the air which costs the UK a projected £3.7bn annually in health impacts.

By placing lockers on the route to where people work, shop and play, InPost is encouraging customers to make more out of their existing journeys (trip chaining or linked trips), rather than making separate trips. This in turn reduces their carbon footprint and lowers emissions and exposure to road related pollutants.

InPost research shows that very few people make designated car journeys to collect items at a locker. One recent study (on customers who collected or returned parcels from InPost Lockers outside Lidl stores) found that 31% travelled by bicycle or on foot to the locker. 61% went by car or motorbike, but almost half (47%) of those shoppers also visited the Lidl store – thereby turning what could have been two trips into one.

Figure 1 – Key Sustainability Benefits



1. Barton Wilmore, 2019. 2. Walton et al. 2015, 3. Giuffrida et al. 2016. 4. InPost 2020.

Summary and Conclusions

InPost parcel lockers can therefore achieve significant sustainability benefits which can be summarised as follows:

- Reductions in CO2 emissions
- Reduced congestion
- Reduced delivery mileage
- Air quality improvements
- Encouraging linked trips

The InPost Parcel Lockers contribute to sustainability objectives by enabling multiple deliveries to one single location which is of direct benefit to the road network in terms of helping to reduce congestion in the wider area with resultant environmental benefits as identified above.

The location of the lockers also allows for the combination of collection of goods with the use of the other services and facilities (linked trips). Not only does this reduce the number of trips in total by both delivery driver and customer, but it also enables a more efficient use of the 'host' site and can support the longevity and vitality of the existing site or location.

InPost Lockers provide a convenient way for customers to collect or return goods at a time which suits them rather than having to wait for goods to be delivered to their home or place of work. They offer many benefits in terms of sustainability, reducing the total number of trips required by both delivery drivers and customers, who often make 'linked trips' combining various activities with their collection, therefore reducing overall trip numbers.

These benefits are therefore important material considerations in favour of the planning application which should be given significant weight.