

Subject:	Communal Bins, Permission to Implement		
Date of Meeting:	29 November 2016		
Report of:	Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Richard Bradley	Tel: 29-4701
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Ward(s) affected:	Brunswick & Adelaide, Rottingdean Coastal, Westbourne, St Peters & North Laine, Preston Park		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 Three Regency Squares along the sea front still have their refuse collected on a weekly basis from basement storage areas. Whilst this practice has been ongoing for many years and the associated risks have been managed, the council as an employer has a duty to minimise risks to employees as far as practicable.
- 1.2 This report seeks in agreement to the introduction of communal refuse collection in these areas, subject to further consultation and options to minimise visual impacts where required with regards to specific locations.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee notes the outcome of the communal refuse & recycling consultation
- 2.2 That the committee approves the roll out of communal refuse & recycling across the areas in response to the results of the consultation as shown at Appendix 1
- 2.3 That the Committee notes that the communal refuse and recycling bins will be located in accordance with operational requirements, subject to recommendation 2.4 below;
- 2.4 That the Committee delegates authority to the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture to conduct further consultation with residents on exact locations of communal refuse and recycling bins in the Rottingdean Coastal Ward (Area 3) where feedback from the consultation was significantly against the proposed locations. The results of the further consultation will be presented back to a future ETS Committee for decision.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The roll out in 2009 of communal containers to three main squares along the seafront (Palmeira, Brunswick and Sussex) and some adjacent streets and terraces, was deferred, with any future decision subject to further consultation. The reason for the deferral was to allow opportunities to minimise visual impact of the containers to be assessed. This report seeks agreement to implement the results of the consultation as per the recommendations in the areas concerned:

- Lewes Crescent, Sussex Square, Chichester Terrace, Arundel Terrace
- Brunswick Square and Terrace
- Palmeira Square and Adelaide Crescent
- Viaduct Road
- Beaconsfield Road
- Westbourne Street (Southern end)

3.2 ***Sea Front Squares***

All of the squares and some of the adjoining streets and terraces still receive a weekly black sack collection. Most of the properties in the squares have been converted to flats and refuse is stored in the basement areas (generally old coal stores). Crews manually collect the sacks from these areas carrying the rubbish up the stairs. The key hazards associated with this practice relate to Manual Handling, Personal Safety and Slips, Trips and Falls. This practice has been of concern for a number of reasons which were explained in detail at the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee held on the 15 March 2016.

3.3 The alternatives to basement collections were consulted upon. In the period between 8 August 2016 and 18 September 2016 the consultation survey was sent out to 2524 households in five areas.

3.4 Four drop-in sessions were held during the consultation period advertised on the initial survey, a further letter explaining the extension of the consultation and through social media and a press release advertising the extension on 8 August 2016 and re-released on 7 September 2016.

3.5 Currently recycling is collected on the kerbside using black boxes as it is in more suburban areas. Whilst this does not present any significant concerns in terms of collection, visual assessment of the amount of recycling placed out for collection indicates that participation rates are low. The introduction of communal recycling was also therefore consulted upon.

CONSULTATION

3.6 Households in five areas of the city were asked to take part in the consultation regarding communal refuse and recycling in their specific area.

A postal consultation survey was sent out on the 2 August 2016 to the areas as shown in the consultation survey results to a total of 2524 households within the five areas.

Area 1.

- Brunswick Square
- Brunswick Terrace

Area 2

- Palmeira Square
- Adelaide Crescent

Area 3

- Arundel Terrace
- Chichester Terrace
- Lewes Crescent
- Sussex Square

Area 4

- Westbourne

Area 5

- Beaconsfield Villas
- Viaduct Road

On the postal survey residents were invited initially to two drop-in sessions to discuss the proposals with officers:

- Thursday 11 August St Marys Church Hall, 61 St James Street, Kemptown, Brighton 4pm-8pm
- Monday 15 August Loft Room, Cornerstone Community Centre, Church Road, Hove 4pm – 8pm

The consultation period was initially for one month. In response to concerns raised about this being within the holiday period the consultation was extended to the 18th September 2016. The total consultation period was for 42 days

In response to concerns raised regarding the short notice for the meetings a further two meetings were arranged. All households were written to by post notifying the extension of the consultation and notifying them of the further drop-in sessions. There were four drop in sessions in total which were advertised using social media, postal survey and subsequent extension letter:

Thursday 11 August	St Marys Church Hall, 61 St James Street,
Kemptown,	
	Brighton 4pm-8pm - Attendance 42
Monday 15 August	Loft Room, Cornerstone Community Centre, Church
Road,	
	Hove 4pm – 8pm – Attendance 36

Tuesday 6 September	St Marys Church Hall, 61 St James Street, Kemptown, Brighton 4pm-8pm – Attendance 18
Monday 12 September	All Saints Church, Wilbury Road, Hove. 4pm – 7.45pm – Attendance 10

PROCUREMENT

- 3.7 The procurement of the communal bins will ensure that the Council is obtaining best value for money. This will be achieved by evaluating options based on a combination of price and quality. Due to the very limited market for this type of communal bin, the Council will use whichever procurement route offers the best value within the required timescales. The Council will adhere to all EU and UK procurement legislation where required as well as the Council's contract standing orders.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 During the consultation there were two methods of collection that were requested as possible options

- Underground Bins
- Seagull Proof Bags

- 4.2 Underground bins are prohibitively expensive and are not reasonably practicable. In addition the city has multiple utilities underground which would be both prohibitively expensive and include significant disruption to the areas concerned including parking facilities.

- 4.3 Seagull proof bags. Discussions at the drop-in sessions referred to seagull proof bags or similar. There was mixed opinion as to whether these were wanted as some still thought would be unsightly. A similar type of collection system has been trialled elsewhere in the city using Binvelopes. This method of collection was stopped as unsuccessful due to the following:

- Containers were left out after collection causing street clutter and trip hazards
- Approximately 90% of householders did not take the containers back in
- Containers were often left open which meant they attracted seagulls and other vermin resulting in spilt refuse
- Households were reluctant to take containers inside due to dog fouling and additional litter caused by others

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 There has been extensive community engagement as and consultation as specified in the background information and shown in the consultation results at Appendix 1. This will continue through the implementation process and specifically in relation to location reviews.

- 5.2 Following feedback from residents of Palmeira & Adelaide ward (Area 2) who are 50% in favour and 50% not in favour of the proposed locations and helpful dialogue with Ward Members, it is proposed to site the bins in this location in accordance with operational requirements. In the Rottingdean Coastal Ward (Area 3) the level of concern regarding the location of the bins was much higher with 59% not in favour of the proposed locations. Therefore it is proposed that further consultation is carried out with residents in this area and the result brought back to a future ETC Committee meeting.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Communal refuse and recycling collections have been successfully introduced in many central parts of the city having a beneficial impact on street cleanliness and making the service easier to use.
- 6.2 Existing refuse collections from the basements of these properties is an ongoing health and safety concern which the council has a duty to address which is the main reason for the proposed
- 6.3 It is proposed to implement the methods of collection as per the recommendations and results of the consultation.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 It is estimated that the costs associated to the roll out of communal refuse & recycling as recommended in this report, including bin purchase, delivery and groundworks, will be approximately £0.070m in the 2016/17 financial year . All costs will be funded from exiting revenue budgets within the City Environmental Management service.
- 7.2 It is anticipated that there may be some efficiencies to the cost of collection and reduced manual handling, however these have not been assumed in existing budgets until the detailed implications are known.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steven Bedford

Date: 03/11/16

Legal Implications

- 7.3 The Council has powers to specify and provide the type of receptacles to be used for depositing waste for collection and may also require particular locations, including the highway, to be used. In carrying out consultation the Council is under a general duty to ensure that any consultation is fair. This means that it must be carried out when proposals are being formulated, that adequate time and information about the proposals must be given to consultees to ensure that they can provide a proper response, and that any consultation responses must be properly considered in reaching the decision

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 02.11.16

7.3 Equalities Implications:

Any residents that are unable to easily access refuse or recycling collection services can apply for assisted collections.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Consultation Results
2. Consultation Comments

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. Consultation document, Brunswick, Sussex, Palmeira & Adelaide
2. Consultation document, Viaduct & Beaconsfield Road
3. Questionnaire Brunswick, Sussex, Palmeira & Adelaide
4. Questionnaire Brunswick, Viaduct & Beaconsfield Road