

Appendix 2: Improving the communal bin system

Introduction

Through the Modernisation Programme, City Environment is seeking to make improvements to the communal bin system. In recent months, significant service issues have arisen due to the current set-up. Based on this feedback, as well as the discovery work being completed through the Keeping the City Clean Review (round restructures), now is an opportune moment to design and deliver improvements.

Based on this proposal, it is anticipated that:

- Recycling will increase
- The service will be more resilient and efficient, in terms of operatives and vehicles
- Complaints about communal bins will reduce e.g. overflowing, fly-tipping, graffiti
- Refuse and recycling services will be easier to understand
- Access to and safety on highways and pavements will improve
- There will be less disruption to parking spaces

Improvement activities

A communal bin audit is being completed to map the locations of all on-street communal bins (refuse, recycling and glass) in the city. The audit is capturing:

- The street name
- The ward
- The locality
- The nearest landmark
- Any perceived issues with the locality
- The latitude
- The longitude
- The date it was assessed
- Who assessed it

During this process, each bin will be given a unique identification number and photographs will be taken.

Once the audit is complete a number of activities are planned:

- The condition of each bin will be reviewed to determine whether any repair work is needed, or if it needs replacing.
- Analysis will be completed to determine whether the bins are in the right locations. This will be twofold: 1) ensuring there is sufficient capacity within a vicinity / neighbourhood for the number of households in the area, 2) reviewing whether the locations are appropriate as per the communal bin siting guidelines.
- The geolocations of each bin will be uploaded to the council website for residents to locate their nearest refuse, recycling or glass bin.
- The data will be stored electronically for easier data management as well as to enable integration with City Environment systems.

The siting guidelines are in draft and will be finalised before this phase of the work starts. Alongside this, other Standard Operating Procedures are being developed to manage further

change requests; namely managing a request to move a bin and managing a request for another bin. Instructions are also being developed on how to rollout communal bins in new areas of the city.

New communal bin system

Using the data and guidelines and reflecting on recent service failures, a new system is proposed as follows:

- All three bin types will be placed together, where operationally and practically possible. If this is not possible, glass will be located nearby. It is expected that this will make disposing of refuse and recycling easier for residents as all the containers will be in one location.
- Each set of bins will be enclosed in a bin bay using key clamp. This will help ensure bins are not moved without council knowledge or approval and will reduce the amount of parking space consumed by inappropriately sited bins.
- The capacity of refuse bins will be 1100 litres. These will be collected on a daily basis, with some collected twice daily. New vehicles will be purchased to increase the resilience of the service given the current issues with the 3300 litre bins and collection vehicles.
- The capacity of recycling bins will be 1100 litre. These will be collected on a daily basis.
- The capacity of glass bins will be between 660 litres and 3200 litre depending on the location and space available. The size will determine collection frequency.
- Improvements will be made to glass collections to improve health and safety provision and reduce noise. This includes using on-street bins specifically designed for glass collections and potentially using a glass truck with a crane to lower the waste into the truck to an appropriate height to release the glass.
- The lids of refuse bins will be black, the lids of dry mixed recycling bins will be Brighton Blue and the lids of glass bins will be Hove Maroon. Feedback from the trial in the Montpelier area of the city indicated that having a differentiation helped residents understand what can go in each bin. These colours are the same as those being rolled out along the seafront for on-the-go recycling.
- CCTV will be installed in all locations to deter moving of bins and fly-tipping. These will be monitored by Environmental Enforcement Officers and where sufficient evidence is available, Fixed Penalty Notices will be issued to individuals who fly-tip and to businesses found to be committing a commercial fly-tip.
- Signage will be reviewed and improved to ensure all key messages are provided. This will include what can go in each bin type.
- A cleaning and maintenance regime will be introduced to improve and sustain the new communal bin system.
- Each bin bay will be subject to a Traffic Regulation Order.

New communal bins areas

Through the Wheelie Bin Audit and other modernisation activities, additional locations for communal bins have been identified. This is because the road and/or pavement are not suitable for wheelie bins and black bag collections are not an option. Moving forward, new communal bin areas will be designed with these principles in mind.

Please note, all new communal bin areas are subject to feedback from the Keeping the City Clean Review (round restructures), Member approval to consult with residents and a resident

consultation, the results of which will be presented to an Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee meeting for a decision on how to proceed.

Funding

Funding options are being explored. The cost of introducing this is still to be determined; the completion of the audit will inform the number of bins and sites to be invested in. The Fleet Replacement Programme complements this piece of work and the costs of this are being calculated to be presented to Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee in November 2019.

City Environment will see seek to refurbish and reuse as many existing communal bins as possible.

