

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Wheelie Bin Recycling Trial</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>7 July 2015</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director of Environment, Development &amp; Housing</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Jan Jonker</b>	<b>Tel: 29-4722</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>Hangleton, South Portslade and North Portslade</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 Currently residents who have access to a kerbside recycling collection service are provided with black boxes to contain and store their recycling. The opening of the councils materials recycling facility and the recent replacement of recycling collection vehicles means that kerbside recycling can now be collected using wheelie bins. Only glass needs to be collected separately to maintain the quality of the recycling.
- 1.2 Wheelie bins offer a number of advantages over black boxes. They are easier to use for residents, reduce manual handling and their roll out is expected to improve the efficiency of the collection service.
- 1.3 This report seeks approval to trial wheelie bins for recycling for 4,500 households.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the committee approve a trial to introduce wheelie bins for the storage and collection of paper, card, cans and plastic bottles for recycling.
- 2.2 That the committee approve funding for the trial, of up to £135,000 from corporate reserves in the 2015-16 financial year with repayments made over the two following financial years. The repayment will first be funded from any savings generated from increased recycling as a result of the trail, with any remaining repayment funded from identified underspends in the service area such as income generated from new textile recycling and commercial waste schemes.
- 2.3 The trial will assess the impact of the container change on recycling rates, collection efficiency and resident satisfaction with the service to inform any decisions on wider roll out of wheelie bins.

### 3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Kerbside recycling is collected using plastic boxes with 50 litre capacity. Collections using boxes were introduced before the materials recovery facility (MRF) was constructed at Hollingdean and the main materials (paper, card, cans, plastic bottles & glass) had to be sorted into compartments on the collection vehicle. Residents were asked to keep these materials separate, either by having a box for each material or by or by compartmentalising material within their boxes. This was the only way high quality recycling could be collected in the absence of sorting infrastructure.
- 3.2 The MRF opened in 2007 which enabled paper, card, cans and plastic bottles to be comingled and sorted at the facility. This made the service easier to use for residents and it made collections more efficient eliminating the need to sort materials at the collection point. Glass has been kept separate as broken glass can have a detrimental impact on the value and ability to recycle paper in particular. Shards of glass also have a detrimental impact on the wear and tear of the sorting equipment in the MRF.
- 3.3 Kerbside sort collections required compartmentalised vehicles. The disadvantage of these vehicles was that if one compartment was full, the crew had to return to tip the materials and the overall capacity of the vehicles was limited. The old vehicles have now come to the end of their life and most have been replaced with 'twin pack' vehicles. The new vehicles look like normal refuse trucks, but have two compartments, one larger compartment for mixed paper, cans, card and plastic bottles which is tipped in the MRF and a smaller compartment for glass which is tipped separately. These new vehicles have standard bin lifting equipment, so currently crews empty recycling boxes in to wheelie bins, which are then emptied in to the vehicles.
- 3.4 This report seeks approval for a trial to issue residents with wheelie bins for comingled recycling (paper, card, cans and plastic bottles) while retaining a box for glass. Wheelie bins are expected to increase the amount of recycling collected and realise a number of advantages for residents including:
- Wheelie bins are be easier to handle for residents who will need fewer containers
  - Wheelie bins will generally provide residents with more capacity to store recycling. A 240l bin (which is proposed standard issue, and is larger than the 140l standard issue wheelie bin for refuse collection) will have a similar capacity to five boxes.
  - Wheelie bins will keep paper and cardboard dry during wet weather. Saturated paper and cardboard is generally not recycled and better containment will improve the quality of recycling.
  - Wheelie bins are more robust and will require less frequent replacement. They are also less susceptible to being blown away or used for other purposes reducing replacement costs.

- In windy weather recycling does get blown out of recycling boxes increasing litter. This would be eliminated with the use of wheelie bins.
  - Issuing wheelie bins will reduce manual handling for Cityclean staff and may improve operational efficiency
- 3.5 Residents frequently request wheelie bins for recycling and the change has also been suggested by staff.
- 3.6 There is a potential risk that issuing wheelie bins could result in the quality of recycling going down as collection crews will not be able to spot any contamination as readily. To minimise this risk the trial would be supported by clear communications including information printed on the bins as to what materials should put in the bins and the requirement to keep glass in a separate box. The quality of recycling is regularly monitored at the MRF and any decrease in recyclate quality will be identified and help target communications with residents. The recycling wheelie bins will
- 3.7 The trial would be rolled out to an existing recycling round enabling robust monitoring of the impact on recycling rates and any adverse impact on levels of contamination. All residents would be surveyed within six months of the start of the trial to assess whether they prefer the new method of collection.
- 3.8 One of the measureable objectives of the trial will be to assess the impact on recycling rates to inform any future decisions on further roll out. Not all parts of the city are suitable
- 3.9 It is proposed to run the trial in Hangleton as shown in Appendix 1. The round consists of 4300 households.
- 3.10 This area is being proposed as properties in this area generally have sufficient outside space to store an additional wheelie bin on their property. Any properties which are unable to store a wheelie bin on their property would continue to have their recycling collected in boxes.
- 3.11 Not all properties that currently receive a kerbside collection will be suitable for wheelie bins due for recycling due to limited storage space and areas would be audited prior to any further recommendations on rolling the scheme out.
- 3.12 If approval is granted the trial could start in November 2015.

#### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Collections could carry on as they are using black boxes for all materials. Wheelie bins are expected to realise benefits as outlined above which is why a trial is proposed.
- 4.2 After six months the trial will be evaluated and inform a detailed business case to roll the scheme out to all suitable kerbside properties. An assessment will be made as to whether the roll out of wheelie bins results in a net saving to the council as a result of increased recycling, improved collection efficiency and

reduced costs associated with replacement recycling boxes. The feedback from the trial and the consultation (set out below) will be reported back to this committee for evaluation and to inform any decisions on future roll out.

- 4.3 If the trial is successful, the extent to which wheelie bin can be introduced will need to be audited. Properties in many areas of the city have room for an additional wheelie bin, but in some kerbside collection areas space is limited. These considerations will also be brought to a future meeting as part of the evaluation of the trial.

## **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The service receives regular requests from residents for wheelie bins for recycling through the contact centre. Collection crews have also fed back that they think collections using bins will improve the service.
- 5.2 Feedback from a recent resident focus group suggests that residents in suburban areas would prefer a wheelie bin for mixed recycling compared to the current boxes.
- 5.3 As part of the trial it is proposed to seek feedback from residents through a survey to assess whether they prefer wheelie bins to the current box collections.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The council now has the fleet and infrastructure in place to collect kerbside recycling (excluding glass) in wheelie bins. Wheelie bins are expected to result in increased recycling rates and in significant advantages for residents and for the collection service. This trial will enable thorough evaluation of this new collection methodology to inform decisions about wide scale roll out to all suitable properties in future.

## **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The cost of 240l wheelie bins is £24 per bin including delivery. The cost of communication materials including bin stickers and surveying residents is £5.75 per household. The total cost of the trial for 4,500 households will therefore be approximately £135,000.

It is anticipated that the trial will require short term funding from capital reserves in the 2015-16 financial year with repayments made over the two following financial years. The repayment will first be funded from any savings generated from increased recycling as a result of the trial, with any remaining repayment funded from identified underspends in the service area such as income generated from new textile recycling and commercial waste schemes (which are subject to separate Committee approval). The recurring financial impact of the proposed scheme and repayments to reserves will be incorporated in future years budget as part of the budget setting and service planning process.

- 7.2 The trial will enable an assessment to be made as to whether the introduction of wheelie bins increases recycling and enables more efficiencies to be realised from the collection service and any savings as a result of a reduction in the number of requests for replacement boxes.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Steven Bedford*

*Date: 10/06/15*

Legal Implications:

- 7.5 There are no legal implications arising from this report. The Council has powers to specify and to provide the types of receptacles to be used for depositing waste for collection and may also require particular locations to be used. The results and analysis of the consultation will need to be taken into account in coming to decisions following the trial.

*Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert*

*Date: 13/05/15*

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 Wheelie bins are generally easier to handle than recycling boxes as they do not require manual handling. Any resident not able to access the service will be offered an assisted collection.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 The introduction of wheelie bins is expected to result in increased recycling rates as it will make it easier for people to recycle. The roll out will be supported by effective communication in order to minimise any increase in non-recyclable material thrown in the bin

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. Map outlining proposed trial area for wheelie bin collections (coloured dots represent properties in the proposed trial area)

