

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Environment & Infrastructure Committee

5 September 2018

Perth City Centre Waste Containerisation

Report by Executive Director (Housing & Environment) (Report No. 18/271)

This report sets out proposals to provide an improved domestic waste collection service to 847 households within Perth city centre.

The new service would be for the collection of general waste only; recycling services are not included in the scope of the project at the present time.

The proposal recommends providing “bin hubs” for residents of the city centre who have no storage space to accommodate wheeled bins and where the domestic waste service currently provided is the uplift of pink bin bags twice weekly.

It is recommend that the city centre containerisation project is rolled out to all properties currently using the pink sack collection service in Perth city centre during 2019.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Perth City Centre Waste Containerisation Project is a long term priority included in the Waste Management Plan (2010-2025, Action 54). (Report Nos. 10/597 refer and 17/367 refer).
- 1.2 At present, residents on the pink bag collection service receive an annual supply of 100 sacks free of charge. However, many residents present rubbish in black bin bags if they run out of pink sacks.
- 1.3 Residents are only permitted to present their rubbish twice a week which many residents find inconvenient. The current system does not give any options for storing or disposing of waste between uplifts or if an uplift is missed, unless a resident takes waste to a Recycling Centre. This leads to some residents putting rubbish on the pavement on non-collection days or storing rubbish in unsuitable places, such as the common close.
- 1.4 Under the current collection system, the refuse collection vehicle may visit certain areas of the city several times in the course of their beat to ensure that all waste is collected, as some residents will routinely present bags outwith the specified 7.30am time.
- 1.5 The visual amenity of Perth City Centre is important to its success to enhance its appeal to encourage visitors and improve the city’s economic appeal.

- 1.6 Waste Services have run two trials to pilot the use of communal bins at a central location. The first trial was at New Row where there were continuing serious issues with dumping of bin bags in the privately owned pond. Following feedback, the New Row hub has now been relocated from the original position and upgraded so that even more residents are able to make use of the bins. The new location has proved to be successful.
- 1.7 The second trial was at Scott Street car park where bins were sited in the largely unused motorcycle parking area. Residents living in Scott Street (between High Street and South Street) were requested to use the bins. The trial was to determine the optimum distance for residents to deposit rubbish and this trial has also proved successful.
- 1.8 Further to these larger trial sites, some flats located in Blackfriars Street, Kinnoull Street and Old High Street that have very small storage areas have requested to have a small (240 litre) bin to share. In these instances (with neighbours agreeing to share bins and taking responsibility for putting them out), the system has worked well and containment of the waste had an instant positive effect of eliminating bag spillage and litter.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The proposal is to provide a number of “bin hubs” for the use of residents who currently use the pink sack collection service. The bin hubs will consist of 1280 litre communal metal black wheeled bins on stands, varying in number depending on the site and the expected usage. Hubs will be located throughout the city centre in convenient locations for the use of residents in flatted properties (see Appendix 2). Residents migrating to the new service would no longer be required to present their waste to the pavement twice weekly or store waste between collections; instead they would use a communal bin to dispose of their waste whenever was convenient to them. The bins would be emptied by the current refuse collection crew on their usual route each Tuesday and Friday.
- 2.2 By providing residents with a convenient way to dispose of their domestic waste, this proposal will mean that no bin bags should be left on the pavements to be uplifted by the bin crews. This will reduce manual handling for the crews and will also greatly assist the street sweeping teams who frequently have to be diverted from normal duties to collect bags that are presented too late for collection or on the wrong day, or where bags have been ripped.
- 2.3 The number of bins at each hub has been calculated based on each household producing up to 240 litres of rubbish per week which is approximately 2-3 bin bags. As this proposal is for general waste only, the volume calculation includes all domestic waste including recyclables, food waste and non-recyclable rubbish. Recycling points and hubs are already available within the City Centre area for householders to use for recycling their waste.

- 2.4 While the bin size calculation is based on each household producing this volume of waste per week, this obviously varies greatly depending on how many people are in the household and their purchasing/disposal habits. Waste officers carried out monitoring over a two week period in March/April 2018 of the Tuesday/Friday collection cycle. It was found that the majority of properties are presenting much less than the calculated volume.
- 2.5 Street litter bins remain as part of the streetscape. The Council is installing smart waste bin sensors in all public litter bins in Perth City Centre to measure the fill levels and alert collection staff when the bin needs to be emptied. Detailed in Action 79 of the Waste Management Plan, the sensors rollout is a part of the Smart Waste Project, jointly funded by the Council and a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme known as a 'Scotland's 8th City – the Smart City'. As part of this project, it is hoped that similar technology can be utilised in the communal containers to record fill levels and help inform servicing requirements.
- 2.6 Screening can be installed for bins in some high profile areas to preserve the visual amenity of the city centre and improve the aesthetics of the facility. However, any screening would require planning permission. The majority of bins would be positioned where screening would not be required (such as vennels) and where they would not detract from the streetscape. Other Local Authorities such as City of Edinburgh, Dundee City and Aberdeen City have installed on-street bins without screening. In the example of City of Edinburgh, bins have been installed in some very high profile residential areas without screening and we aim to follow this model.
- 2.7 Bin hubs have been placed away from shops and ground floor properties to ensure that no homes or businesses are adversely affected by the visual aspect of the bins, or any odour and noise. We have also ensured that no parking spaces have been used; some bins are placed on roads but in areas such as loading bays or on double yellow lines (where they would not affect line of sight or vehicle manoeuvring). This ensures that no resident with a parking permit or business will be affected by reduced levels of parking spaces.
- 2.8 The service will be rolled out by the end of 2019 to all participating properties. On the commencement of the bin and stands installation (which will be carried out as a single planned rollout), all participating properties will receive a direct mailing giving 28 days notice of the change in service, along with comprehensive information on their new waste disposal facility. Posters will be installed in each close advising of the nearest bin hub. Residents will also be able to use an interactive map available on the Council's website which will show all bin hubs on a map. Residents can either click on the bin icon or search by postcode, and a photo and location of the bin will be shown. Drop-in sessions will also be held at Pullar House, Perth. In addition, all social media platforms will be utilised to promote the service.

- 2.9 Monitoring will be carried out after the bins have been installed, to capture any waste that is presented in sacks outwith bins and to further raise awareness with residents who are not utilising the bin hubs. As any screen or bin housing will require planning permission, any further requirement for screening will form part of the monitoring process.
- 2.10 Any resident who is unable to take their waste to a bin hub can apply for assistance under the Council's Assisted Lift Service.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The benefits of the new service are:

- Pink sack collection service will be eliminated
- City centre streets will be cleaner
- Convenient storage solutions for residents will be in place
- No additional resource required to collect bins
- No parking spaces used

Benefits have been proven by trials at Scott Street and New Row

3.2 It is recommended that the Environment & Infrastructure Committee approve:

- (I) the installation of general waste communal bins for the use of residents in Perth city centre currently using the pink sack collection service as per the attached map (Appendix 2).
- (II) the cessation of twice weekly pink sack collection service
- (III) the discontinuation of free pink sacks to Perth city centre residents.
- (IV) the monitoring of the service over 6 months, with a report back to the Committee on the outcome of the roll-out.

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Approved

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Yes
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan

- 1.1 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan by reducing the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production by managing municipal waste in Perth city centre.

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities:

- Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 The total cost of bins, stands and screens is £63,000 for the 42 bin hubs. The cost will be accommodated through prudential borrowing within the Capital Budget in 2019/20. A saving of £3,500 per annum will be achieved by no longer having to distribute pink sacks to residents of the city centre.

Workforce

- 2.2 The Corporate Human Resources Manager has been consulted on the proposals contained within this report. No additional operational staff are required.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 The Corporate Asset Management team have been consulted on the proposals contained within this report.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties. The Equality Impact Assessment undertaken in relation to this report can be viewed clicking [here](#).
- 3.2 The proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- Assessed as **relevant** and the following positive outcomes expected following implementation:
 - Bin hubs have been placed away from shops and ground floor properties to ensure that no homes or businesses are adversely affected by the visual aspect of the bins or any odour or noise.
 - Any resident who is unable to take their waste to a bin hub can apply for assistance under the Assisted Lift Service.
 - In some streets, residents have no option but to pile bags outside shops in order to keep pavements clear. The bin hubs will keep pavements clear of refuse bags.
 - No parking spaces will be used to house bins hubs

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS). The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

- 3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions. The proposals in this report support sustainability through improved waste management.

Legal and Governance

- 3.5 Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted on the proposals contained within the report, in particular the discontinuation of the pink sack collection service.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The following elected members and teams were consulted on the project plans:
- The local elected members who represent the Perth City Centre Ward
 - Direct Services (Operations) – All sites have been risk assessed by the depot Foreman and approved.
 - Roads – Approval in principle given for sites that are on the road including the areas on double yellow lines where it does not affect line of sight.
 - Parking – Advised that their preference would be that no parking bays be used.
 - City Centre Management – Advised that they would prefer screening of bins in vennels and high profile areas.
 - Planning – Advised that any screening would require an individual planning application but that in their opinion screens were not required.
 - Greenspace – Advised that screening would be preferable for some sites.
 - Environmental Health – All sites approved and would be beneficial to eliminate the sack collections.
 - The Head of Finance, the Corporate Human Resources Manager and the Head of Legal and Governance have been consulted on the contents of this report.

External

- 4.2 The Chairs of the Perth Traders Association have been consulted on the contents of this report.
- 4.3 The Centre for Inclusive Living Perth and Kinross has been consulted on the contents of this report.

5. Communication

5.1 A communications plan will be developed as part of the project management.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

2.1 Report to the Environment Committee of 28 August 2013, Containerisation of Waste in Perth City Centre (Report Number : 13/418)

3. APPENDICES

3.1 Appendix 1 - Example of bin hubs at New Row, Cutlog Vennel and Scott Street

3.2 Appendix 2 - Map of bin hubs