

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Wheeled Bins for Recycling</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>8 December 2016</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director for Environment, Economy &amp; Culture</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Richard Bradley</b>	<b>Tel: 29-4701</b>
	<b>Email:</b>	<b>Richard.bradley@brighton-hove.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE.**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

1.1 At the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016, a report was presented that detailed the results of the trial using wheeled bins for recycling within the Hangleton & Knoll and Portslade areas of the City. This report highlighted the increase in recycling, decrease in residual waste and very high levels of customer satisfaction using this collection method.

1.2 The Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee:-

- Approved the business case for the introduction of wheeled bins for recycling for all households across the city, where there is room for the storage of a wheeled bin.
- Recommended that the cost of funding the wheeled bins as a one-off purchase, estimated at £17 per bin x 60,000 properties, together with promotion, education, awareness and delivery costs totalling an approximate £1.1 million shall be referred to Policy, Resource & Growth Committee for further consideration.

1.3 This report is to request that the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee approve the procurement of the one-off supply of wheeled bins and to approve the proposed funding arrangements.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2.1 That the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee:

- 1) Approves the introduction of wheeled bins for recycling across the city, where there is room for the storage of a wheeled bin at an estimated cost of £1.1 million funded by additional borrowing,( which will be incorporated into the council's budget strategy for 2017/18 onwards)
- 2) Approves the procurement of a one-off supply of wheeled bins under a framework arrangement;

- 3) Grants delegated authority to the Executive Director Economy, Environment and Culture, following consultation with the Executive Director Finance & Resources, to carry out the procurement via an approved framework arrangement referred to in 2.2 above including the award and letting of the call-off contract under the framework arrangement;

### **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 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 box 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 recommends issuing residents with wheeled bins for co-mingled recycling (paper, card, cans and plastic bottles) while retaining a box for glass. Wheeled bins are expected to realise a number of advantages for residents including:
  - Issuing wheeled bins will result in the requirement to handle fewer containers.
  - Wheeled bins will generally provide residents with more capacity to store recycling. A 240litre bin (which is proposed standard issue, and is larger than the 140litre standard issue wheelie bin for refuse collection) will have a similar capacity to five boxes.
  - Wheeled bins are easier to handle compared to boxes which need to be lifted. They are more robust and will require less frequent replacement. They are

also less susceptible to being blown away or used for other purposes, thereby reducing replacement costs. In windy weather recycling does get blown out of recycling boxes increasing litter. This would be reduced with the use of wheelie bins.

- Wheeled bins will keep paper and cardboard dry. Saturated paper and cardboard can generally not be recycled and therefore adds to the residual waste stream, thereby lowering recycling rates and increasing residual waste levels.

3.5 The Wheeled bin trial approved at Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee on 7 July 2015 commenced in November 2015. The Waste Data enclosed at Appendix 2 in the period:

November-October 2014-15 compared with November-May 2015-16 shows:

- An increase of an average of 4% to the recycling rate
- A reduction of 3.18% in the amount of refuse collected
- An increase in recycling weight of 12.76%

April-March 2014-15 compared to same period in 2015-2016 shows:

- An increase of an average of 8.10% of the amount of recycling collected
- A reduction of 5.58% in the amount of refuse collected

3.6 The procurement of the one-off purchase of the wheeled bins is intended to ensure that the Council is obtaining best value for money. This will be achieved by using a national framework that enables the choice of contractor for the supply of the bins to be based on a fair and transparent competitive process. The quality of the bin will be based on such criteria as its ease of use and durability. Use of a national framework in order to procure the wheelie bins is likely to reduce the length of the procurement process.

The one off cost of funding the wheeled bins, estimated at £17 per bin x 60,000 properties, together with promotion, education, awareness and delivery costs totalling an approximate £1.1 million shall be funded corporately through borrowing over a seven year period. There is a budget available for the cost of replacement and maintenance of bins which will be supplemented by a shifting in allocation for black box bins as these would no longer be required in the longer-term.

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

4.1 Collections could carry on as they are using black boxes for all materials, however this could mean that recycling rates remain static. Wheeled bins are expected to realise benefits as outlined above which is why the recommendation is to implement wheeled bin recycling throughout the city, where there is room for the storage of a wheeled bin.

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

- 5.1 The results set out in this report have been achieved with limited community engagement and it is recommended therefore that the trial continues to the end of August 2016 to allow further research and analysis and targeted community engagement within the trial area.
- 5.2 The community engagement to include, working with residents, community groups and crews to further increase the recycling rates achieved, to reduce further the amount of missed collections, a full customer satisfaction survey and other communication and marketing strategies to help residents reduce, reuse and recycle.
- 5.3 Initial feedback from residents has been extremely positive as reflected in the sample of feedback below. In addition to this we have numerous requests from areas outside of the trial area to change from the current recycling box collections to a wheeled bin system.

### **Customer Comments:**

#### **Hangleton & Knoll**

- I'm sure you get many people complaining about things, but I would like to write about something positive! I think the new recycling bins are a fantastic idea and I hope they will become permanent. I received mine today. Not only will they keep things dry, but I hope will reduce the amount of rubbish blowing around. Well done Brighton Council!
- I would like to say how much better the new grey recycling bins are.

#### **North Portslade**

- The grey wheelie bin is a great improvement - no more losing lids; silly nets; or having to have to carry 3 boxes out to the kerb.

#### **South Portslade**

- Just to let you know that I am very happy to, at last, have a proper (grey) eco bin for most of my "green waste". I stopped using the black boxes a long time ago, because I found them awkward to lift and carry to the pavement. Then when they were emptied, I found them scattered across our front garden, the lids scattered around or along the pavement, along with light rubbish that had escaped the lorry, depending on how windy the day was. At last Brighton Council are catching up with the majority of councils in the country that have been providing eco bins for the last few years. There is a lot less light rubbish scattered following an eco-collection, and my old bones can cope so much better with wheeling the new bin to the pavement, and then back again later in the day. So Thank you so much for your efforts in getting a trial of new recycling wheelie bins. Please don't let it just be a trial. It is the cleanest collection environmentally, and also encourages elderly people who can't cope with lifting black boxes to be as green as possible. I am most grateful.

## **Feedback outside trial area**

### **Hangleton & Knoll**

- Is not in the trial area but requested a bin. This will greatly help to keep the driveway tidy and stop paper and cardboard being blown about as we usually recycle about four black boxes

### **Patcham**

- Asked to exchange her recycling boxes for a wheelie bin but is outside the trial area.

### **Stanford**

- I'd appreciate you keeping me informed about the trial. I know of at least a dozen people in my street interested in having one, as a neighbour has purchased their own and it much less mess (hard for foxes and cats to get onto) much more manageable and customer friendly.

### **South Portslade**

- Is outside the trial area but would like to request a wheelie bin. "I currently fill up over four bin/ boxes supplied each time as I am a keen recycler and have managed to reduce heavily what goes to landfill in the rubbish wheelie bin. As you can appreciate though four bin/boxes takes up a lot of space and impacts on the collectors who have to deal with four each collection date plus any extra input out. If this can be directed to the correct department and expedited and soon as is possible that would be greatly appreciated to help assist myself and improve collections".

### **Hanover & Elm Grove**

- I'm writing to ask if there are any other options for recycling collection. There is recycling all down our street (Sandown road) as our collection day was Monday and the wind blew rubbish everywhere. I know this was a particularly windy day but most weeks there is some recycling left blowing down the road. When I lived in the town centre we had large bins we could put recycling in as needed and we didn't have this problem. Or is it possible to have a bin like the ones we have for normal rubbish? I've gone out to clear the rubbish outside our house but the rest of the street still looks horrible today. I appreciate the good work the rubbish collectors do I just wanted to see if there was a way to keep the street looking nice.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The initial results of the use of wheeled bins for the collection of material for recycling have indicated increased recycling rates and in significant advantages for residents and for the collection service.
- 6.2 Given the results of the trial it is recommended that the Committee approve the business case and the funding proposal for the introduction of wheeled bins for recycling across the city, where there is room for the storage of a wheeled bin.

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

### **Financial Implications:**

- 7.1 The report sets out the proposal for a one off purchase of wheeled bins across the city to support the initiative of increasing recycling rates.
- 7.2 The one off costs of purchase and implementation of this scheme are estimated at £1.1 million which will be financed through borrowing at an estimated cost of £0.200 million per annum over a seven year period. These financing costs will be included as a commitment within the financing costs budget in the council's budget strategy for 2017/18 onwards.
- 7.3 The ongoing replacement and maintenance costs of wheeled bins will be funded from within existing replacement and maintenance budgets in Environmental Management Services. The indications from the trial for this initiative show that there are likely to be efficiencies for staff and contract savings in relation to the Waste PFI contract. The implementation of this initiative will support the delivery of the Environmental Management staff savings identified in the 2017/18 Integrated Service & Financial Plans (also on the agenda). Once this scheme is fully implemented, any further staffing savings identified will be included in 2018/19 and future years budget strategy. Any savings in relation to contract costs due to improved recycling rates will be factored into the regular review of the Waste PFI budget and contract.

***Finance Officer Consulted: Sue Chapman***

***Date: 22/11/2016***

### **Legal Implications:**

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.

It is intended that the supply of the wheeled bins will be procured by way of a national framework arrangement. Any contract under the framework arrangement must be in a form approved by the Head of Law and must be reviewed by Legal Services to ensure that the framework has been procured through a legally compliant process.

***Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert***

***Date: 14.11.16***

**Equalities Implications:**

- 7.2 Wheeled bins are generally easier to handle than recycling boxes as they do not require as much manual handling. Any resident not able to access the service will be offered an assisted collection in the same way as is provided via the residual waste service.

**Sustainability Implications:**

- 7.3 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 and marketing to enable residents better understand the messages around reduce, re-use and recycle.

**Any Other Significant Implications:**

- 7.4 None

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

- 1. Survey results**
- 2. Waste Data**

### **Documents in Members' Rooms**

- 1. none**
- 2. none**

### **Background Documents**

- 1. none**
- 2. none**



**Crime & Disorder Implications:**

1.1 none

**Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:**

1.2 none

**Public Health Implications:**

1.3 none

**Corporate / Citywide Implications:**

1.4 none

