

# Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 18 March 2014

## Trade Waste Pilot - Update

Item number	7.15
Report number	
Wards	11, 12, 13

### Links

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Coalition pledges	<a href="#">P44</a> , <a href="#">P49</a> , <a href="#">P50</a> , <a href="#">P52</a> , <a href="#">P53</a>
Council outcomes	<a href="#">CO17</a> , <a href="#">CO18</a> , <a href="#">CO19</a> , <a href="#">CO26</a> , <a href="#">CO27</a>
Single Outcome Agreement	<a href="#">SO4</a>

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# Executive summary

## Trade Waste Pilot - Update

### Summary

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Following a report to Committee on 29 October 2013, it was agreed to pilot timed trade waste collection windows in three pilot areas – Rose Street and its lanes, the High Street and Leith Walk.

This report provides an initial update on progress with these trials, in particular the trial in Rose Street.

### Recommendations

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It is recommended that Committee:

1. Notes the progress made to date.
2. Notes that further reports will be provided including a full evaluation of the pilots after the summer festivals.

### Measures of success

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The report of 29 October 2013 noted that success will be measured by:

- Reduction in the number of trade waste containers on the streets.
- Reduction in trade waste derived litter on the streets.
- Businesses managing their waste more responsibly and recycling more.
- Cost effectiveness i.e. any costs associated with implementation will be offset by savings in street cleaning.

A full assessment of these measures will be carried out in advance of the final outcome report.

### Financial impact

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There is no financial impact directly resulting from this report. Resources are required to promote the timed collection approach and to support local businesses to meet the new requirements.

## Equalities impact

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A full equalities impact assessment will be carried out in advance of the full outcome report.

## Sustainability impact

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Encouraging businesses to reduce the volume of waste they produce by promoting prevention through reuse and recycling will reduce carbon emissions.

A more robust approach to the management of trade waste will encourage businesses to take more responsibility for their waste, improve the appearance and cleanliness of the local environment and put sustainability at the forefront of businesses organisational priorities.

## Consultation and engagement

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Affected businesses in the three locations were asked to complete an on-line survey to determine the times of their waste collection windows. To ensure effective representation, personal visits and letter drops were carried out to over 600 businesses.

Emergency services and Lothian Buses were also consulted regarding the times in Leith Walk and the High Street, given the potential for disruption to bus services on these routes.

Two follow-up meetings have been held with Rose Street Pub Watch, a group representing the bar and catering trade.

An evening meeting was held to provide information about the scheme to affected businesses on Leith Walk. Three further advice and assistance drop-in surgeries have also been arranged.

A number of individual meetings have taken place with affected businesses to address concerns about their particular ability to comply.

## Background reading / external references

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[Trade Waste Policy Options – Transport and Environment Committee, 29 October 2013](#)

## Trade Waste Pilot - Update

### 1. Background

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- 1.1 On 29 October 2013, a report considered by the Transport and Environment Committee recommended trialling timed waste collections in order to evaluate the effectiveness of this approach in tackling the many issues associated with the storage of business waste on our streets.
- 1.2 Three pilot areas were chosen – Rose Street and its lanes, the High Street and Leith Walk.
- 1.3 Progress reports on the outcome of the trials were to be reported back to Transport and Environment Committee, both before and after the Festival. This report provides an initial update on progress, with a particular focus on the Rose Street trial.

### 2. Main report

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#### **Rose Street**

- 2.1 The pilot in Rose Street began on 20 January 2014. Consultation with businesses identified preferred timed collection windows of 09.00 – 10.00 and 17.00 – 18.00.
- 2.2 The Rose Street Lanes are used for the storage of waste not only by businesses based in Rose Street but also by those within a wider area, from George Street to Princes Street and Charlotte Square to St Andrew Square.
- 2.3 The new Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 require all businesses to recycle. Any business with only one bin is seen as non-compliant, as such the number of bins on the street will continue to increase exponentially.
- 2.4 Initial feedback from businesses raised a number of issues:
  - The lanes were deemed to be unused ‘service lanes’ fit only for the storage of rubbish;
  - Businesses had become used to storing their waste on street and had no capacity for storing it inside;
  - Having to store waste within their premises would require more frequent collections which would cost more;
  - As some were part of national companies, they had little say in how their waste was managed locally;
  - Business were tied to existing contracts;
  - The times didn’t suit bar and catering businesses; and

- Their contractor was unwilling or unable to comply with their requirements.
- 2.5 Food and glass recycling streams were identified as being especially problematic. Glass is heavy, bulky, potentially dangerous and cannot be easily collected in bags. Storage of food was deemed to have health and hygiene implications (Scotland is the first country in the UK to require Councils to separately collect food waste for recycling).
- 2.6 To address the concerns raised by the businesses, an additional collection window of 22.00 – 23.00 has been agreed. Businesses that have difficulties with complying with timed collection windows for food and glass have been permitted to retain food and glass containers on the street as a temporary measure providing that they can demonstrate that they are making efforts to work towards compliance.
- 2.7 Initial feedback from trade waste contractors also raised a number of concerns:
- They were insufficiently prepared for the launch of the new Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 which requires all businesses to recycle at source;
  - Changes to their routes and current practices would take time to implement; and
  - The physical layout of the lanes coupled with the times of the timed collection windows generated perceived health and safety concerns amongst several contractors.
- 2.8 A four-week 'grace period' to allow businesses to adapt to the new requirements followed the pilot start date of 20 January 2014. Staff from the City Centre and Leith Neighbourhood Team, plus the Edinburgh Wardens, have been visiting individual businesses to offer advice and assistance and monitor progress.
- 2.9 To date, progress on the ground has been mixed. The number of bins in Rose Street has fallen from 390 on 7 January to 355 on 14 February 2014. These numbers are however somewhat misleading. The introduction of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations on 1 January 2014 requires all businesses to separate their waste at source. This has led to an expansion of bin numbers across Edinburgh as one (residual) bin has been replaced by up to four (residual, food, glass and dry mixed recycling). However discussions and meetings with businesses indicate that many are either compliant or actively working towards compliance.
- 2.10 There is also evidence to suggest that businesses are taking more responsibility for the management of their waste whilst it is on the street. A snapshot of cleanliness standards in Rose Street and the Rose Street Lanes suggests that cleanliness has however improved. A LEAMS (Local Environmental Audit and Management System) survey carried out on 7 January 2014 rated all transects surveyed as unacceptable (either C or D grades) with trade waste highlighted as a contributory factor. A further survey on 27 January 2014 scored all transects as a B grade (i.e. they met the acceptable standard of cleanliness).

- 2.11 Although some trade waste contractors initially indicated a reluctance to work to the timed collections, all the major trade waste companies have now confirmed that they will participate in the pilots and that they will remove all residual (landfill) waste and dry mixed recycle containers from Rose Street and the Lanes. The additional night time collection window has been received positively by both contractors and licensed businesses.
- 2.12 Some tactical enforcement may be required to ensure that trade waste contractors actively work towards removing their waste containers from the streets. The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 gives the Roads Authority the power to control obstructions (s.59) and remove them (s.87). If the contractors do not remove their containers themselves, the Council can do so and levy a charge to cover the costs of uplift and storage of trade waste bins.
- 2.13 All remaining residual and dry mixed recycling containers currently still in Rose Street and the Lanes out with the timed collection windows are being identified for removal. Stickers will be affixed to bins warning that if they are not removed within 14 days that they will be removed by the Council. This enforcement activity commenced at the end of February 2014.
- 2.14 Work will be ongoing with businesses that retain food and glass bins to ensure that they are managing their waste appropriately and working towards identifying and implementing alternative solutions.
- 2.15 The pilot to date has been a resource intensive process particularly the engagement with and support to businesses. Additional resources are being identified to ensure the pilots are sufficiently supported as they move on to Leith Walk and the High Street.

### **Leith Walk**

- 2.16 The pilot in Leith Walk is due to begin on 3 March 2014. Following consultation with the businesses with added feedback from the emergency services and Lothian Buses, the timed collection windows have been identified as 10.00 – 11.30 and 14.00 – 15.30.

### **High Street**

- 2.17 The pilot in the High Street is due to begin on 10 March 2014. Given traffic restrictions at this location, the options were considerably reduced. Consultation with businesses has identified a preferred timed collection window of 8.30 – 10.30.

### 3. Recommendations

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- 3.1 It is recommended that Committee:
1. Notes the progress made to date.
  2. Notes that further reports will be provided including a full evaluation of the pilots after the summer festivals.

#### Mark Turley

Director of Services for Communities

#### Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	P44 – Prioritise keeping our streets clean and attractive P49 – Continue to increase recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill P50 – Meet greenhouse gas targets, including the national target of 42% by 2020 P52 – Oppose industrial biomass incineration in Edinburgh P53 – Encourage the development of Community Energy Co-operatives
<b>Council outcomes</b>	CO17 – Clean - Edinburgh's streets and open spaces are clean and free of litter and graffiti CO18 – Green - We reduce the local environmental impact of our consumption and production CO19 – Attractive Places and Well Maintained – Edinburgh remains an attractive city through the development of high quality buildings and places and the delivery of high standards and maintenance of infrastructure and public realm CO26 – The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives CO27 – The Council supports, invests in and develops our people
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	SO4 – Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric