

# Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 7 December 2017

## Enhancing Communal Bin Collections

<b>Item number</b>	7.7
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Executive/routine</b>	Executive
<b>Wards</b>	All wards
<b>Council Commitments</b>	C23

### Executive Summary

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Across the city there are approximately 18,000 communal bins, ranging in size from 500 litres to 3,200 litres. The frequency of collection varies but typically communal bins are serviced on a twice per week frequency.

There are a number of locations across the city where bins for residents to dispose of waste to landfill are prevalent but there is a lack of recycling infrastructure and this has a subsequent impact upon the city's recycling performance.

There is a clear lack of public confidence in the communal collection system. Some locations clearly have particular ongoing issues in respect of overflowing bins and this is typically assumed to be due to failures in collection. Whilst on occasion this can be the case, there are numerous other factors that can result in overflowing bins. Issues such as trade waste abuse due to Waste Scotland Regulations and bin locations, double parking, the increasing proliferation of Air BnB, holiday lets/party flats, and a highly transient population with a lack of information on waste management expectations are all additional factors.

In order to alleviate these issues Waste and Cleansing Services have developed an outline project which intends to improve the service provided to residents. In order to achieve an enhanced level of service it is proposed that collections of on-street communal bins for landfill and packaging (cardboard, cans, plastics) wastes will increase to an every other day collection service.

Increasing the frequency of collection reduces the potential for bin overflows between collections and has the potential to reduce the number of bins, and therefore maintenance and replacement requirements, by approximately 25%.

In addition, and over a twelve-month period, every communal bin location across the city will be reviewed with the intention of creating a more formalised waste and recycling point for bins. This will inevitably require Traffic Regulation Orders and potentially capital works to alter the existing streetscape and is intended to be taken forward in conjunction with Roads and Active Travel colleagues. It is anticipated the project as whole may take three to five years to fully deliver.

## Enhancing Communal Bin Collections

### 1. Recommendations

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It is recommended that Committee:

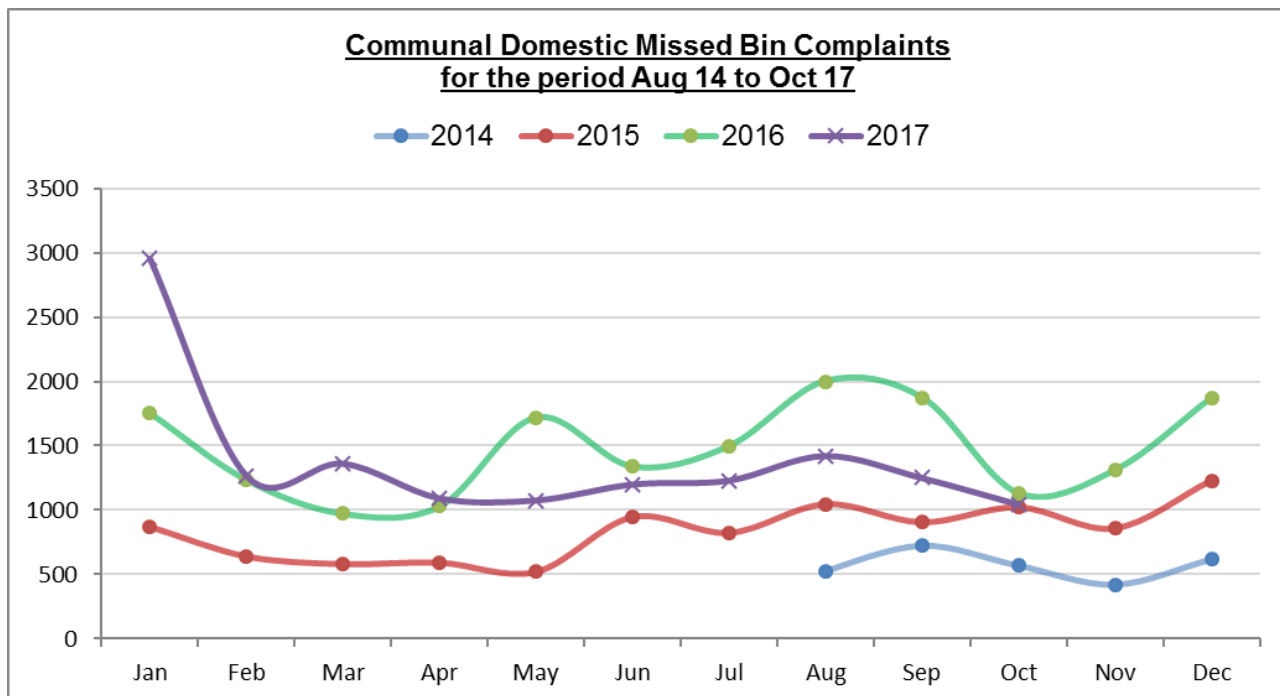
- 1.1 Approves a project to redesign the existing communal bin service;
- 1.2 Notes that, as part of the project, an assessment of alternative communal collection systems will be undertaken;
- 1.3 Approves a trial to implement every other day collection for on-street communal bins within a selected area from Ward 12 (Leith Walk); and
- 1.4 Agrees to receive a detailed progress report within six months.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 There are approximately 18,000 communal bins across the city, the majority of which are located on-street. Although the frequency of collection varies the majority are collected on a twice per week frequency; one of Monday/Thursday, Tuesday/Friday, or Wednesday/Saturday.
- 2.2 Of the total number of communal bins 1,800 of these are the large side loading static bins. Edinburgh is only one of two Councils, the other being Brighton, that use these types of bins. Although considered efficient from an operational perspective these bins do have specific problems due to their size (more prone to fly tips/house clearance) and their lack of mobility (to manoeuvre around double parked cars/vans). Additionally, if the servicing vehicles are unavailable due to breakdown then they cannot be replaced using the normal hire market and results in service disruption.
- 2.3 All communal bin services operate from the Seafield depot, in the East of the city. Collections are undertaken seven days per week, from 0600 to 1700 hours.
- 2.4 Communal bins started to be introduced as part of the containerisation project which commenced around 1997. The project initially focused upon containers for landfill and the number of bins was derived from an assumption that every resident would receive 240 litres capacity each week. Since the initial introduction many streets have subsequently changed; properties may have been turned into Houses of Multiple Occupation, gap sites may have been developed, and the number of bins has increased as the requirement to provide recycling has evolved.

- 2.5 It is not however always possible to provide recycling bins alongside landfill bins due to existing parking restrictions or available space on the street. In many cases the bins themselves demonstrate their age and have a detrimental impact on the local environment.
- 2.6 The communal bin service, over the course of 2017, January excepted, attracts between 1,000 and 1,500 complaints per month. The individual bin service, in comparison, attracts more complaints per month but the number of bins this covers is vastly more and so has substantially less of a 'failure' rate. It should however be noted that the number of complaints against communal bins do not necessarily reflect a failed collection. The number of individual collections per month amounts to in the region of 1.6m collections, so 0.094% of potential collections attract a complaint. With regard to communal bins, the number of collections carried out is approximately 100,000 per month so 1 – 1.5% attract a complaint, ten times the number on individual collections.



- 2.7 Failed collections can occur as a result of a number of factors. The introduction of the Waste Scotland Regulations placed a legal duty on businesses to separate out waste into a number of different streams. As previous surveys have demonstrated around 49% of businesses in Edinburgh do not have a complete trade waste contract in place. This inevitably leads to commercial waste in domestic bins and resultant overflows. Double parking across bins, particularly side loading bins, results in failed collections and although access will be attempted later on the scheduled collection day this does not guarantee bins will be emptied. Increases in the number of holiday lets/party flats and increasing numbers of Air BnB type properties place increasing strain on existing communal bins and inappropriate use inevitably leads to overflowing bins.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 Officers believe that an increase in the frequency of collection for on-street communal bins will reduce the opportunity for instances of overflows. As a result of increasing the frequency of collection the number of bins required on-street could reduce by up to 25%. A review of all communal bin locations and types also allows for the opportunity to ensure that recycling bins are co-located with landfill bins wherever possible to further increase the city's recycling rate.

#### **Project Design**

- 3.2 In order to deliver a project of this complexity a number of stages will be undertaken.
- 3.2.1 An outline modelling exercise is being undertaken to analyse bin numbers, locations, routes and current productivity to confirm required resources. It is anticipated that this exercise will be complete by the end of February 2018.
- 3.2.2 As the detailed analysis is being undertaken a trial will also be delivered. The purpose of the trial will be to verify the number of bins able to be serviced on individual shifts and will be undertaken within existing resources. The measures of success of the trial will focus on three performance indicators; missed bins, street cleansing requests, and fly tipping requests.
- 3.2.3 Should approval be granted for this project Officers from the service will start reviewing existing locations across the city. Each location review will focus on the optimum location(s) within a street for a formalised waste and recycling point. It is intended part of the assessment criteria will include walking distance for residents and the flow of pedestrians within a street and any impact on parking provision. This stage of the project will also consider whether the use of bin housings (such as those examples in the pictures below) is feasible.





- 3.2.4 This stage of the project will be undertaken in conjunction with Locality and Roads colleagues as Officers are aware of possible duplication. Potential to co-locate bin storage and cycle storage will be investigated with Active Travel colleagues and the integration of electric vehicle charging points will be considered. The roll out of new bins sites will also consider existing parking zones. It is anticipated that this stage of the project will take twelve months.
- 3.2.5 Following the motion to Council on 21 September 2017 research will be undertaken on alternative communal collection methods. As part of this project it proposed that the use of large side loading bins will be reviewed. The results of this exercise will be reported within six months.

### **Project Rollout**

- 3.3 Following the review of existing and future provision within each street Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) will require to be submitted to alter sites and undertake any site works. Locations requiring site works will be cross referenced with scheduled road and footpath investment within Place Management to minimise disruption to residents. TROs can take anything between twelve and eighteen months to determine and implement changes and as a result of this, and the review of individual locations, it is anticipated the overall project may take three to five years to fully deliver.

### **Communication and Consultation**

- 3.4 As changes are made within each street each resident will receive an information pack introducing the new site and containing information on materials to be deposited in each bin, how to manage their waste effectively, and how to appropriately dispose of bulk items. Continuing actions from the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan the service will continue to work with private and social landlords and universities to ensure new tenants have access to the information.
- 3.5 As Members will be aware the service recently commissioned Changeworks to host an online survey to better understand resident's attitudes to communal bins and recycling. Initial findings will be shared with members when available.

## **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 The number of complaints about communal collection services, fly tipping reports, and street cleansing complaints will reduce.
- 4.2 Customer satisfaction with waste and cleansing, as measured by the Edinburgh People's Survey, will increase.
- 4.3 Recycling performance will increase. This can be measured through comparison of tonnages collected from communal services prior to, during, and after the project is delivered.

## **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 There will inevitably be financial implications by increasing the frequency of collections. As the project matures the financial impact will be better defined as a reduction in the number of bins on-street will have associated financial benefits in reducing maintenance requirements.
- 5.2 Outline financial and performance modelling will be undertaken as part of the review and any requirement for additional funding will be quantified.
- 5.3 The detailed financial implications will be outlined following detailed modelling and the bin location review and will subsequently be reported to Committee at a future date.

## **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 There are no perceived governance, policy or risk implications associated with this report or the project itself. Where policy changes may be required as a result of the actions within the communal bin project, these matters will be taken forward by way of a separate report to the relevant committee for approval.

## **7. Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 There are no identified equalities impacts resulting from this report.

## **8. Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 Improvements in the quality of our Waste and Cleansing Service will contribute towards a reducing the amount of waste to landfill, increasing the amount of recycling and improving the quality of Edinburgh's local environmental quality.

## 9. Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 Changeworks were commissioned by the Council to undertake a consultation exercise on communal bin collections. The purpose of this consultation was to better understand how residents currently use the services and some of the barriers towards using the service, particularly recycling.
- 9.2 The consultation closed on the 23 October 2017.
- 9.3 The findings from the Consultation will be circulated to Committee Members when available.

## 10. Background reading/external references

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- 10.1 None.

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## 11. Appendices

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None