

# Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 16 May 2019

## Communal Bins in Muirhouse - review of the Council's approach to waste disposal and bin storage in the high rise blocks and other communal living arrangements in Muirhouse

Executive/routine	
Wards	1 - Almond
Council Commitments	C23, C25

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee:
- 1.2
  - 1.1.1 notes the content of this report; and
  - 1.1.2 refer this report to the Housing and Economy Committee on Thursday 6 June 2019 for consideration, as per the motion request.

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

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# Report

## Communal Bins in Muirhouse - review of the Council's approach to waste disposal and bin storage in the high rise blocks and other communal living arrangements in Muirhouse

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report reviews the issues around waste and recycling bins provision in the high rise blocks and other communal blocks in Muirhouse and proposes an action plan.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The report responds to the motion submitted by Councillor Hutchison at [North West Locality Committee on 14 November 2018](#) which:

- 3.1.1 Requests a report to the Transport and Environment Committee and the Housing and Economy Committee in two cycles comprising a review of the Council's approach to waste disposal and bin storage in high rise blocks and other communal living arrangements, comprising:

- 3.1.1.1 An analysis of the current situation with regard to waste disposal in Muirhouse including a review of bin store positioning and layout and the use of garbage chutes.
- 3.1.1.2 An appraisal of whether a lack of bins is responsible for the current situation of overflowing bins and waste strewn bin stores.
- 3.1.1.3 An action plan and timeline to improve conditions in Muirhouse with regard to waste disposal.

### 4. Main report

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- 4.1 Officers from Waste and Cleansing Services, Housing Operations and the North West Locality met to review the issues and develop an action plan to address the concerns about waste and cleansing in high rise buildings (HRB) and communal living arrangements in Muirhouse in line with Councillor Hutchinson's motion.

- 4.2 The properties assessed are included in the action plan and the report includes a mixture of high-rise and low-rise blocks:
- 4.2.1 The high-rise blocks are: Oxcars Court, Inchmickery Court, Birnies Court, Gunnet Court, Fidra Court and May Court.
- 4.2.2 The low-rise blocks are: 1 Muirhouse View, 2 Muirhouse View, 4 Muirhouse View, 130 Pennywell Medway and 132 Pennywell Medway.
- 4.3 The main issues considered were:
- 4.3.1 Officers discussed how the issues related to blocked chutes when the non-recyclable bins are not collected on the scheduled days. It has been noted that non-recyclable bins from some of the blocks are collected as per schedule but some of the blocks are not.
- 4.3.2 Some of the blocks are provided with recycling bin areas. In particular, the recycling bins area in front at Birnie's Court and opposite Fidra Court are experiencing issues with fly-tipping. It has also been noted that the recycling bin area opposite Fidra Court are being misused by passers-by using a nearby path which leads from the residential area to the bus stop at the main road.
- 4.4 Considering the above, the proposed an action plan that includes:
- 4.4.1 Waste and Cleansing Service to ensure all the waste and recycling bins are recorded correctly on the Asset Management system (Confirm), with the appropriate details including location. This action was completed in February 2019.
- 4.4.2 Waste and Cleansing Services to reiterate to collection crews the locations of each type of waste and recycling bins and frequency of collection. This action was completed in February 2019.
- 4.4.3 A proposal for a revised waste and recycling bin provision for the blocks mentioned above is attached at Appendix 1. The aims of the action plan are:
- to provide all properties included in the report with a fully integrated recycling service within a confined area;
  - provide additional non-recyclable waste capacity within the recycling bin area to provide relief and prevent contamination of mixed recycling bins; and
  - to improve the streetscape and prevent fly-tipping issues of recycling and non-recyclable waste bags excess on the ground.
- 4.5 The proposed action plan has been shared with Councillor Hutchison.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Implementation of the action plan will be progressed as outlined in Appendix 1.

- 5.2 Following the implementation of the action plan, a monitoring period will be in place in collaboration with the Housing Block Manager/Team Leader to assess if the measures in place have had a positive impact. If the measures do not mitigate the issues, revision of the collection schedule will need to be assessed.
- 5.3 The action plan is in line with the aims of the Communal Bin Review project to:
- 5.3.1 Increase and improve recycling services to residents in multi-occupancy and flatted properties providing integrated waste and recycling services (each location aiming to have residual waste, recycling, food waste and glass).
  - 5.3.2 Review the existing bin locations to develop more formalised collection hubs to improve the perception of the service and enhance the streetscape.
  - 5.3.3 Improve overall recycling performance and service reliability.
  - 5.3.4 Ensure the service reflects changes to legislation and policies within and outwith the Council.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 The new waste and recycling area between Inchmickery Court and Birnie's Court is part of the Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEP) programme.
- 6.2 The purchase of additional waste and recycling containers will be met from the Council's revenue budget.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 Waste and Cleansing Services, Housing Operations and North West Locality have worked collaboratively to ensure the action plan meets with residents and community needs. The action plan has also been shared with Councillor Hutchison.
- 7.2 Improvement in the quality of Waste and Cleansing Service will contribute towards a reducing the amount of waste to landfill or energy recovery, increasing the amount of recycling and improving the quality of Edinburgh's local environmental quality.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 Not applicable.

## **9. Appendices**

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- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Action Plan for the Communal Bin in Muirhouse

# Communal Bins in Muirhouse - review of the Council's approach to waste disposal and bin storage in the high rise blocks and other communal living arrangements in Muirhouse

## 11.1 Motion by Councillor Hutchison - Communal Bins in Muirhouse

### *Committee*

- (i). Recognises that adequate provision of suitable waste receptacles is essential to maintaining a clean and safe living environment in communal blocks and that a lack of bins can lead to fly-tipping, unsanitary and unsafe conditions in bin stores and creates a living environment which is undesirable for residents.*
- (ii). Acknowledges that Officers in Waste have confirmed that the current provision of bins in the Muirhouse flats is in line with Council policy.*
- (iii). Acknowledges the work already being undertaken by Officers to review the Council's communal bins policy.*
- (iv). Requests a report to the Transport and Environment Committee and the Housing and Economy Committee in two cycles comprising a review of the Council's approach to waste disposal and bin storage in high rise blocks and other communal living arrangements, comprising;*
  - a. An analysis of the current situation with regard to waste disposal in Muirhouse including a review of bin store positioning and layout and the use of garbage chutes.*
  - b. An appraisal of whether a lack of bins is responsible for the current situation of overflowing bins and waste strewn bin stores.*
  - c. An action plan and timeline to improve conditions in Muirhouse with regard to waste disposal.*

### **Scope**

High-rise blocks included: Oxcars Court, Inchmickery Court, Birnies Court, Gunnet Court, Fidra Court and May Court

Low-rise blocks: 1 Muirhouse View, 2 Muirhouse View, 4 Muirhouse View, 130 Pennywell Medway and 132 Pennywell Medway

After a meeting between Waste and Cleansing Services and different Housing department team officers on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019, further site survey with the Block Manager/Team Leader of the high-rise blocks carried out on the 25<sup>th</sup> February and walk around with Councillor Hutchison on 5<sup>th</sup> March the following will be actioned:

## Action Plan

- Waste Services to update records for all type of containers (non-recyclable waste, recycling, food waste and glass). Action completed. DONE.
- Waste Services to update locations of all containers on CONFIRM and communal bins maps. DONE.
- Waste Services to inform Operational of any updates and confirmation on collection schedule especially for non-recyclable waste bins (Monday and Thursday). DONE
- Proposal to be developed on provision of recycling, increase the capacity for non-recyclable waste etc. Promotion of recycling bins usage through ad-hoc posters to be displayed within the blocks.

Summary of the proposal:

<b>Oxcars Court</b>	Create a waste and recycling area within the existing fenced area removing its front for easier access. Move the 2 x 1280L mixed recycling bins and the 1 x 500L food waste bin from the street/pavement into the new waste and recycling area. Add 2 x 1280L mixed recycling bins to provide more recycling capacity, add 1 x 660L glass bin as at the moment there is no glass facility at the site and add 2 x 1280L non-recyclable waste bins.
	Remove the existing paper static bin as paper is collected within the mixed recycling bins. (Static paper bin has been removed February 2019).
<b>Inchmickery Court and Birnie's Courts</b>	The North West Housing Locality is working through the Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEP) to create a waste and recycling area to move the recycling bins from the front of Birnie's Court and Inchmickery Court to this new location.
<b>Gunnet Court</b>	Add 2 x 1280L mixed recycling bins near the 1 x 1280L glass and the 1 x 500L food waste bin to provide more recycling capacity.
<b>Fidra Court</b>	Add to the existing recycling facilities, 2 x 1280L mixed recycling bins to provide more recycling capacity and add 2 x 1280L non-recyclable waste bins to provide general waste capacity relief and prevent contamination to the nearby recycling bins.
	It has been agreed that the North West Locality Housing Team will investigate the potential for screening of the waste and recycling bin area and possibly removing access to the recycling and waste area from the path leading to the bus stop and restrict access from the front of it to prevent overflowing issues and fly-tipping.
<b>May Court</b>	May Court is provided with 2 x 1280L mixed recycling bins and 1 x 500L food waste bin. Residents at May Court will be able to use the recycling bin area opposite Fidra Court

- monitoring of collections of non-recyclable waste bins in the following few weeks/month with support from the Block Manager/Team Leader to assess if the measures put in place will have a positive impact. If the measures will not mitigate the issues, revision of the collection schedule would need to be carried out with potential increase of non-recyclable waste bins collection frequency to 3 times per week or increase number of non-recyclable waste bins where needed (i.e. extra 2/3 x 940L non-recyclable waste bins nearby the bin-chute or increase of 1280L non-recyclable waste bins in the designated waste and recycling bin areas).

## Oxcars Court

### Action Plan

- Update record for non-recyclable waste bins: 6 x 940L chamberlain bins collected Monday and Thursday DONE
- Update location of all containers on CONFIRM and communal bins maps DONE
- Remove the paper static as service not provided anymore. (Done w/c 25<sup>th</sup> February). Paper can be recycled in the green lidded mixed recycling bin. DONE

### Proposal

Create waste and recycling area within the fence:

- remove the front of the fence and tidy up the floor area
- move 2 x 1280L mixed recycling bins
- move 1 x 500L food waste
- add 2 x 1280L mixed recycling bins
- add 2 x 1280L non-recyclable waste bins collected as the 6 x 940L chamberlain bins
- add 1 x 660L glass bin

The above will provide:

- Fully integrated recycling service within a confined area
- remove bins from the road and the pavement
- provide residual waste capacity relief and nearby recycling bins to prevent contamination



Erica Manfroi

## Inchmickery Court and Birnie's Court

### Action Plan

- Update record for non-recyclable waste bins: 6 x 940L chamberlain bins collected Monday and Thursday DONE
- Update location of all containers on CONFIRM and communal bins maps DONE

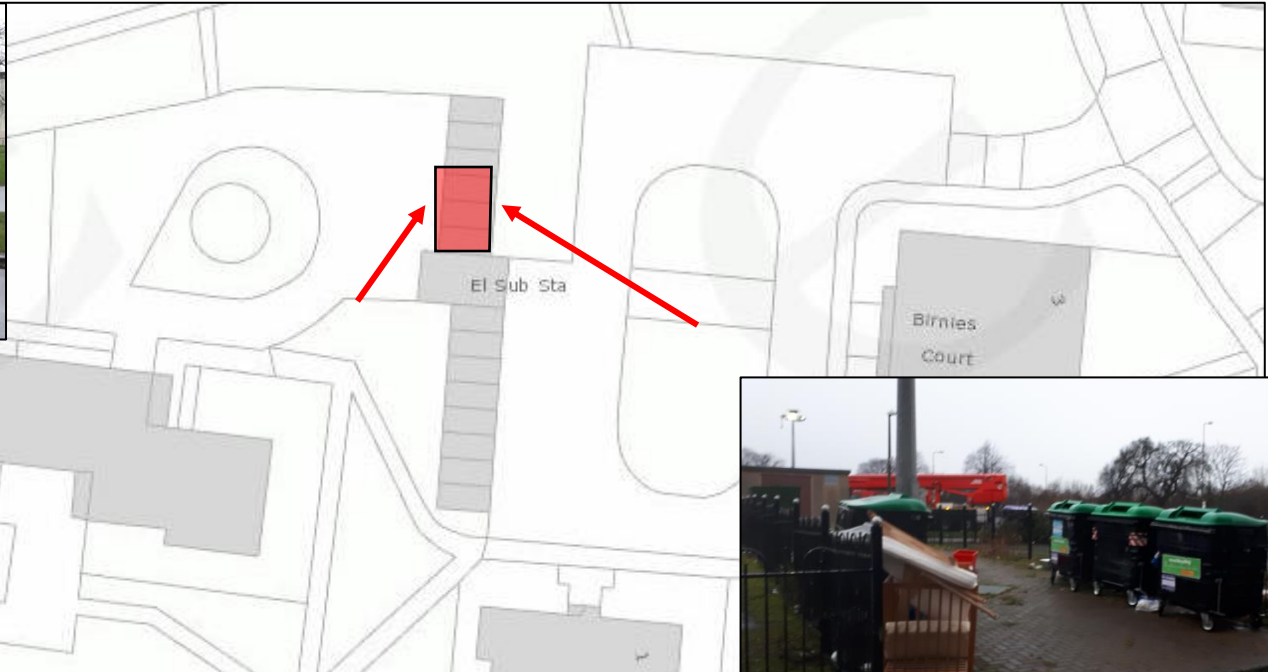
### Proposal

David Stevenson, Team Leader for the Housing North West Locality is working on creating a waste and recycling area to allocate the recycling bins from the front of Birnie's Court and Inchmickery Court to this new location.

- Check with David Stevenson number and type of bins including adding 2/3 non-recyclable bins to prevent contamination
- 1 Muirhouse View residents would be able to access the bin area for recycling.

The above will provide:

- Fully integrated recycling service within a confined area
- remove bins from the road and the pavement
- provide residual waste capacity relief and nearby recycling bins to prevent contamination





## Gunnet Court

### Action Plan

- Update record for non-recyclable waste bins: 3 x 940L chamberlain bins collected Monday and Thursday DONE
- Update location of all containers on CONFIRM and communal bins maps DONE

### Proposal

- Add 2 x 1280L mixed recycling bins in the bin area at the side of the building
- 2 Muirhouse View and 4 Muirhouse View to use the bin area for recycling

The above will provide:

- Fully integrated recycling service within a confined area

If required in a second moment increase the bins area to include 2 x 1280L non-recyclable waste bins to prevent contamination of recycling bins and provide relief capacity for non-recyclable waste



## Fidra and May Court

### Action Plan

- Update record for non-recyclable waste bins: 6 x 940L chamberlain bins collected Monday and Thursday DONE
- Update location of all containers on CONFIRM and communal bins maps DONE

### Proposal

- Add 2 x 1280L mixed recycling bins into the bin area in the communal area side of Fidra Court
- add 2 x 1280L non-recyclable waste bins collected as the 6 x 940L chamberlain bins
- 132 Pennywell Medway and 130 Pennywell Medway to use the bin area for recycling
- Housing to look into potential screening/restricted access bin area possibly closing the access from the path leading to the bus stop to prevent overflowing issues and fly tipping.

The above will provide:

- Fully integrated recycling service within a confined area
- provide residual waste capacity relief and nearby recycling bins to prevent contamination

