

Subject:	Wheeled bin recycling		
Date of Meeting:	11 October		
Report of:	Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The results of the wheeled bin trial evidence over the trial period indicate an increase in recycling of 4% and a reduction in residual waste of 3.18%. The full breakdown of waste data is shown at Appendix 2. Moving from a black box to wheeled bin collections will help improve missed recycling collection performance levels, which will again encourage more people to recycle.
- 1.2 The enclosed survey shows that 95.4% of residents find it easier to recycle with a wheeled bin and 45.72% recycle more than they did previously using black boxes. The data shows that the implementation of wheeled bins across the city to an estimated 60,000 properties will increase recycling rates upwards of 3%.
- 1.3 Currently residents who have access to a kerbside recycling collection service are provided with black boxes to contain and store their recycling. The opening of the council's materials recycling facility and the recent replacement of recycling collection vehicles means that kerbside recycling can now be collected using wheelie bins. Only glass needs to be collected separately.
- 1.4 Wheelie bins offer a number of advantages over black boxes. They are easier to use for residents, reduce manual handling and their roll-out is expected to improve the efficiency of the collection service.
- 1.5 This report seeks approval in principle to expand the trial area of 4000 wheelie bins for recycling to all households across the city where there is room to store a wheelie bin. This would be subject to audit and a full financial business case submitted to Policy, Resources & Growth Committee on 8 December 2016 and is estimated at a further 60,000 properties.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee notes the update on the wheeled bin recycling trial and recommends to Policy, Resources & Growth Committee that it approves the introduction of wheeled bin recycling in principle

subject to detailed financial implications of the scheme being presented for consideration at the Policy, Resources & Growth meeting on 8 December 2016

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 potentially issuing residents with wheelie bins for comingled recycling (paper, card, cans and plastic bottles) while retaining a box for glass. Wheelie bins are expected to realise a number of advantages for residents including:
- Issuing wheelie bins will result in the requirement to handle fewer containers
 - Wheelie 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.
 - Wheelie bins are easier to handle compared to boxes which need to be lifted
 - Wheelie 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.

- Wheelie bins 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 eliminated with the use of wheelie bins.

3.5 The Wheelie 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 wheelie bins will ensure that the Council is obtaining best value for money. This will be achieved by evaluating options based on a combination of price and quality. The quality of the bin will be based on such criteria as its ease of use and durability. It is envisaged that a national framework will be used in order to procure the wheelie bins, thereby reducing the length of the procurement process.

3.7 Due to the high value of the contract, an OJEU-compliant process will be undertaken that adheres to all UK procurement regulations and the Council's contract standing orders.

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. Wheelie bins are expected to realise benefits as outlined above which is why the recommendation is to implement wheelie bin recycling throughout the city

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

5.1 As part of the recycling trial a full survey was conducted with all 3948 participants in the trial.

5.2 Collection crews and officers working in the trial area have fed back that residents prefer recycling using wheeled bins rather than recycling boxes.

Wheelie Bin Survey

In September 2016 a survey was sent out to 3948 households.

1542 responses were received to the consultation, giving a response rate of 39.05%.

- 95.4% of respondents find the new service easier to use
- 45.72% of respondents recycle more with the new service.
- 96.89% of respondents prefer the new recycling wheeled bins.

Comments received from the survey:

Q2a. – Do you find it easier to recycle with a wheelie bin than you did a black box?

Q2b. – If yes, why?:

1399 households commented on why they prefer a wheelie bin for recycling

The top comments for this question were:

- Easier to move
- More room
- Much more convenient
- Lids don't blow away
- Cleaner/tidier appearance

Some example comments include:

- Simpler system and don't have to carry boxes to kerbside
- Previously I was managing three or four boxes
- Easier to use and encourages to recycle more
- More convenient, cleaner, hygienic.
- The bins hold more than the black boxes so no need for extra bags to be put out for recycling. Much easier to wheel out a bin than to carry black boxes, especially for older people
- There is more capacity and the bin has a lid which makes it cleaner. I use my old black box for glass and put mixed recycling in the wheelie bin. I recycle more because despite having 4 black bins (used one for glass) I find the wheelie bin holds more and I don't have to worry about it blowing away. I can also recycle flattened large boxes more easily and they don't get wet from the rain.
- More secure, so no chance of recycling falling out and getting blown away, plenty of space, so don't run out of room for recycling.
- Only 1 trip up & down the driveway. Easier to wheel the bin than carry dirty or wet bulky boxes. Easier for my bad back!
- I am 85 years old, so it's much easier to pull a bin than lift a heavy box
- Much more space, stops it from blowing away or getting wet.

Q2b – If no, please give further detail?

55 households commented on why they prefer recycling boxes to a wheelie bin

The top comments for this question were:

- The bin is too large
- Too heavy to move
- Not enough room to store bin

Q3. – Since the introduction of the wheelie bins, do you recycle more or less than before?

705 households responded to this question:

- | | | |
|---------------|-----|--------|
| • More | 705 | 45.72% |
| • Less | 12 | 0.78% |
| • The Same | 802 | 52.01% |
| • No Response | 23 | 1.49% |

Q4a – Are there any issues with using your wheelie bin to recycle?

The top comments for this question were

- The bin is too large
- Would like to use bin for glass also

Q5a – Would you like the wheelie bin recycling service to continue in your area?

1276 households commented on why they would like to see the service continue.

The top comments were in majority the same as for Q2b.

Some example comments include:

- As a senior citizen with physical disability it is easier to use.
- As answered above, I only have to go searching for one bin rather than bins & lids & nets up and down the road.
- Much easier and cleaner, I would hate to return to the old system
- Helps the environment
- It is so much better as there is more room for recycling and also it doesn't look as bad as the black containers and the stuff doesn't blow around the place

Q6. – Please provide any additional comments or suggestions that you may have.

741 households commented

The top comments were:

- The bin is too large
- Would like glass to be included for collection from the bin
- Would like to see increased plastic recycling facilities

Some example comments included:

- No seagulls attacking black bags for food etc.
- Recycle more items. - tetrapacs etc. Look at Adur D.C.
- Very happy with the new system.
- Sometimes it is difficult to know if you can put certain things in the recycling. I love having my wheelie bin - it is very convenient.
- Should be used across the town. By far easier for older people. Perhaps offer large recycling container with flip lid for people who recycle a lot of glass.
- The bins keep the rubbish intact with the lid closed as opposed to black box lids blowing off and paper and contents being strewn over roads and gardens and looking a mess!
- Other local authorities are able to deal with a much wider range of plastics. We would like to be able to recycle as much as possible.

The full survey results are shown as Appendix 1.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This report updates members on the results of the wheeled bin trial and seeks approval to recommend to Policy, Resources & Growth Committee that it approves wheeled bin recycling in principle subject to the submission of further detailed financial information.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The introduction of wheeled bin recycling is subject to capital funding being approved and appraisal of the scheme financial implications to be reported to Policy, Resources & Growth Committee on 8th December 2016. The proposed report to Policy, Resources & Growth Committee will include options for capital funding and details of the anticipated recurring impact on revenue budgets. It is estimated that the capital funding requirement is £1.172m, which if agreed will require Policy, Resources & Growth Committee approval to be added to the capital programme.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steven Bedford

Date: 30/09/16

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report. The Council has powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 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.

Lawyer Consulted: Hilary Woodward

Date: 29/9/16

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 The service will continue to offer Assisted Collections for residents who are unable to access the service, i.e. where a resident is not able to place the bin at the kerbside, operatives will collect recycling from the property at a previously agreed collection point.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Survey Results September 2016
2. Waste Data
3. Financial Implications

