



Equality Impact Assessment

Full assessment form v5 / 2013

www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Directorate:

Director of Property

**Function e.g. HR,
IS, carers:**

Waste Management

Title of policy, service, function, project or strategy (new or old):

Roll Out of Wheelie Bins for Refuse

Type of policy, service, function, project or strategy:

☒ New / proposed

☐ Changed

☐ Existing

Lead officer

Rebecca Adams- Waste Management Officer

People involved with completing the EIA:

Stacey Grant
Gina Perryman
Paul Fielding

Introductory information (Optional)

Currently, Portsmouth residents are not limited on the amount of refuse they can present for collection. In order to introduce a limited capacity refuse collection, a trial was conducted in Highbury, Cosham. This area consists of 1,388 households of which were given 140L refuse bins to present their weekly waste for collection- with no side waste.

Households were consulted with prior to the trial beginning. On 11th July waste officers began the communications of the trial by door knocking and delivering a letter to all the households in the trial area. Through this communication, 793 (57%) households were engaged with on the door and the remaining households received a letter. Of those 793 households, 34 negative comments were received on the door step. Evening drop-in sessions were also held on two days at the Highbury Community Centre. Second communications comprised of leaflets delivered to the residents detailing what to expect when the bin arrived. Final communications occurred alongside the delivery of the refuse wheelie bins preparing residents for the the start of wheelie bin collections for refuse.

The first collection using wheelie bins was 23rd September and waste officers worked along side the collection crew to provide feedback to residents who had either: placed out side waste, had an overflowing bin or placed black sacks out for collection instead of bin. This exercise was conducted for three consecutive collections in order to ensure residents were aware that any extra waste, not in the bin, would be left.

During the trial period, households had the opportunity to contact us if they believed they needed a bigger bin for refuse. Larger capacity bins were available (180L and 240L). These bins were issued after an assessment by Waste Officers. Households qualified for a larger bin if they could show that they are diverting all their recycling out of the refuse and generate more waste than would fit into a 140L bin. Out of 41 households contacting us for an assessment, 24 households qualified for a larger bin.

Step 1 - Make sure you have clear aims and objectives

What is the aim of your policy, service, function, project or strategy?

The aim is to permanently provide the Highbury estate with 140L refuse bins to limit capacity and reduce the amount of waste presented for each weekly collection- no side waste will be collected. As well as reducing waste and increasing recycling, street cleanliness will also be improved.

Who is the policy, service, function, project or strategy going to benefit or have a detrimental effect on and how?

The Highbury estate covers 1,388 households.

From the ward data for Cosham, the age population mainly consists of 25-64 year olds at 51.1% (n. 7,377) and people aged 16 and under at 21.0% (n. 3,033) (ONS Census, 2011).

In relation to ethnicity and language indicators, 6.9% (n. 952) of Cosham residents are of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups. The population whose ethnicity is not 'White UK' is 9.5% (n. 1,309). Both these percentages are lower than for Portsmouth overall, which is 11.6% and 16% respectively (ONS Census, 2011).

The percentage of residents within the Cosham ward who have limiting long term illness or disability is 17.6% (n. 2,428) which is just greater than Portsmouth overall at 16%.

Within the Highbury area, 12 households were on an assisted collection for their recycling containers before the trial began. These properties were automatically put on assisted collections for the refuse bins after speaking with the residents. However we did understand that, while residents may be managing with their recycling container, they may have difficulty with placing the wheelie bin for refuse out each week for collection. This is due to refuse weighing considerably more than recycling.

What outcomes do you want to achieve?

Increase recycling through limiting refuse capacity.
Improving the street cleanliness of the area.

To ensure that the consultation process meets the needs and reflected needs of all the residents.

The Equalities Act 2010 is fully complied with.

A fair and reasonable outcome is achieved for all residents affected by the permanent roll out of the change in service.

What barriers are there to achieving these outcomes?

The residents may have tolerated being given a wheelie bin for refuse as a trial, however may object to having a bin permanently.

Step 2 - Collecting your information

What existing information / data do you have? (Local or national data) If you don't have any data contact the Equalities and diversity team for some ideas

From the trial period we have gathered tonnage data of both refuse and recycling to see if the introduction of wheelie bins has had an impact.

Contamination analysis- samples from each vehicle from each collection day are analysed on a yearly basis. We are able to compare the amount of non-targeted materials within the recycling from Highbury prior to the trial starting, to the amount of non-targeted materials within the recycling after the trial began. The amount of recyclables in the refuse was also compared prior to and after the trial starting.

Background information was also gathered from the Council's Equality and Diversity Strategy 2014-2017 and the Joint Needs Assessment (JSA).

We also conducted a resident satisfaction survey three months into the trial.

Using your existing data, what does it tell you?

From the tonnage data, refuse tonnage has decreased from an average of 14.9 tonnes per week to an average of 12.8 tonnes per week. Recycling has increased from an average of 7.8 tonnes a fortnight to an average of 8.4 tonnes a fortnight. This indicates that the limited capacity is reducing the volume of waste collected and disposed of from the trial area. Also, recycling has increased but not following the same amount as the reduction in refuse.

From Material Analysis Facility (MAF) data recycling contamination has reduced from 6.48% in 2015 to 5.90%. Furthermore, the percentage of recycling in the residual waste has decreased from 5.87% in April 2016 to 3.90% in November 2016.

From the JSA, the majority of the population of Cosham are aged between 25 and 64 years old (51.1%) and are predominantly of White British ethnicity (90.5%). The number of residents with a limiting long term illness or disability is 17.6%. From engaging with this area through door knocking we believe that these demographics of the Cosham ward closely match those of the Highbury area.

Step 3 - Now you need to consult!

Who have you consulted with?

If you haven't consulted yet please list who you are going to consult with

We have consulted with the residents of Highbury, trying to engage with as many residents as possible, through varying methods.

N/A

Please give examples of how you have or are going to consult with specific groups or communities e.g. meetings, surveys

Before the trial took place we door knocked the whole of the Highbury estate and engaged with 57% of households. Residents were also given the opportunity to attend drop-in sessions over two evenings. These were held at the Highbury Community Centre with the session being accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

After three months of the trial being implemented, through door knocking and a leaflet drop, residents were given the opportunity to complete a satisfaction survey and provide their opinions on the trial. Residents were given the opportunity to complete the survey on the door step, online or if preferred a paper copy was provided. Out of 1,388 households 340 residents responded (25%).

Step 4 - What's the impact?

Is there an impact on some groups in the community? (think about race, gender, disability, age, transgender, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and other socially excluded communities or groups)

Generic information that covers all equality strands (Optional)

The general impact on the residents of Highbury will be having to place their wheelie bin for refuse out for collection each week.

Due to the layout of the estate, the majority of households have open drives. Having to place bins out may obstruct the driveways and furthermore may obstruct the pavement for wheelchairs and people who are visually impaired. This would have a greater impact on the recycling week, as two bins will be placed on the pavement for collection. To mitigate this, engagement with the crew has been conducted to ensure that bins are placed back neatly as to not obstruct too much of the pavement.

From the satisfaction survey 80% (n. 273) felt that the bins were placed back tidily after collection.

Ethnicity or race

Out of 340 respondents, seven (2%) declared having an ethnic group of either Asian or Asian British (1.2%) or Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups (0.8%). Residents of White British ethnicity is the majority at 92% (n.313). The remaining 6% preferred not to state ethnicity. These percentages however do not fully represent the Cosham ward as, 9.5% of residents within the Cosham ward are not White British. This may be true of the Highbury estate as a section of the Cosham ward but we cannot be certain from the satisfaction survey alone.

Of the four Asian or Asian British respondents 100% were either satisfied or very satisfied with the introduction of wheelie bins for refuse.

Of the three Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups respondents 100% were either satisfied or very satisfied with the introduction of wheelie bins for refuse. One negative comment from a resident of a mixed or multiple ethnic group was that they "want to recycle more" but knowing what to recycle is "too complicated" this would lead us to review communications in future to make this clearer for residents.

The majority of residents of White British ethnicity were either very satisfied or satisfied at 78% (n. 244).

Gender including transgender

Out of 340 respondents- 197 (58%) considered themselves to be female, 126 (37%) considered themselves to be male, and 17 (5%) preferred not to say or left the question blank. Demographics for Portsmouth (ONS Census, 2011) indicate a near 50:50 split between genders.

75.8% of female respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the introduction of wheelie bins for refuse. 81.4% of male respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the introduction.

There was no significant difference in comments between female and male residents.

No equalities information was gathered for transgender residents.

Age

Within the Cosham ward, the majority of residents are aged between 25 and 64 years old (51.1%; n. 7,377). From the satisfaction survey, of 323 respondents who declared their age, 71.8% (n. 231) were between 25 and 64 years old. There is a higher number of 65 to 85+ year olds within the Highbury area, if the survey is taken to be representative, with 27.3% (n. 88) within this category compared with 16.9% for the Cosham ward. This may indicate that the population is older within the Highbury area than in the

Cosham ward as a whole. If this is the case then we would need to consider how managing a wheeled bin for refuse may impact someone of an older age. If it is proving difficult then an assisted collection can be set up for those residents. During the trial, two additional assisted collections were set up for residents either due to age or disability.

The most satisfied age group are the 65 year olds and overs with 92% being either very satisfied or satisfied with the introduction of a wheelie bin. The main concern of this age group was that the bins were not being put back tidily with one resident commenting: "Always ensure that householders and your operatives do not put bins and other items on the footway, making access difficult for prams, wheelchairs and the visually impaired and all pedestrians". The age group with the lowest percentage of satisfaction was the 25-34 year olds, however 62% (n.23) of respondents in this category were either very satisfied or satisfied. The majority of negative comments were in relation to the size of the bin, with one resident saying "Larger bins is the only complaint I have. The team collecting are great and courteous. The black bins just simply aren't big enough. Making them about the same size as the green recycling should be sufficient. We make an effort to recycle as much as we can, however with a young family there is still a lot of waste. Bigger bins would mean more overhead in case of weeks where we use more".

This indicates that the satisfaction of the introduction of wheeled bins for refuse is high overall across all age groups.

The limited size of wheelie bin may have had an impact on residents with medical needs whereby they need to dispose of medical waste into their refuse. Three larger bins were provided during the trial due to this.

Disability

Under the Equalities Act 2010, the Council has a duty to ensure that they eliminate unlawful discrimination and to advance the equality of opportunity for those residents who share a protected characteristic. This may mean that people with disabilities are treated more favourably than those who do not in order to achieve the same outcome for both groups.

The percentage of residents within the Cosham ward who have limiting long term illness or disability is 17.6%. Of 340 respondents, 37 declared themselves as having a disability (10.8%). This is slightly lower than the population within the Cosham ward.

Of the 37 residents who have declared that they are disabled; five are hearing disabled (13.5%), 20 are mobility disabled (54.1%), six are visually disabled (16.2%) and six (16.2%) marked down 'other'.

Of those 37 respondents, 86% were either very satisfied or satisfied with the introduction of wheeled bins. Mobility- 95% (n.19) were very satisfied or satisfied with the introduction of the bins. Hearing- 80% (n. 4) were either very satisfied or satisfied. Vision- 66.7% were very satisfied or satisfied. Other- 83.3% were very satisfied. The main concern for disabled residents is that the bin is not big enough "The wheelie bins need to be larger. Far too small for a family of four, we recycle to the max, our recycling bin is always full to the point of over flowing. If the bins were the same size as recycling bins you would stop seeing black bin bags lying in the road". Another resident described the problem of bins obstructing the pavements: "The first collection day the pavement in Highbury Grove was unnecessarily blocked along its length by badly returned wheelie bins, on one side, (north) to the extent that using the pavement as I do with my mobility scooter, I was constantly having to dodge badly placed bins".

There is the possibility that residents with a disability may struggle to manoeuvre the wheelie bin, as with an older person, an assisted collection can be set up. Assisted collections enable the crew to collect refuse/recycling from an agreed point and place back the container after it has been emptied. However, the crew are unable to go inside the property of the resident to collect domestic waste. Two additional collection were set up during the trial due to either disability or age.

Religion or belief

The permanent use of wheelie bins for refuse we envision, would not have an impact on any residents of certain religions or beliefs. This is due to residents already using a wheelie bin for recycling. However, we did not collect this equality data.

Sexual orientation

The permanent use of wheelie bins for refuse we envision, would not have an impact on sexual orientation. This is due to residents already using a wheelie bin for recycling. However, we did not collect this equality data.

Pregnancy and maternity

The increase in nappy use may impact families with babies. If residents can show that they are recycling all they can they will be entitled to a larger bin to accommodate the nappy waste. Only 53% of households with children under 5 were either satisfied or very satisfied. The majority of reasons behind non satisfaction is the bin not being big enough to accommodate their waste.

Other socially excluded groups or communities e.g. carers, areas of deprivation, low literacy skills

The Highbury area is between 10.2 and 24.4 on the Multiple Deprivation Indices scale (JSA, 2011). This is an average level when compared to the rest of Portsmouth. The roll out of wheelie bins for refuse as a permanent basis shouldn't effect socially excluded groups. However, we did not collect this equality data.

Health Impact

Have you referred to the Joint Needs Assessment (www.jsna.portsmouth.gov.uk) to identify any associated health and well-being needs?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What are the health impacts, positive and / or negative? For example, is there a positive impact on enabling healthier lifestyles or promoting positive mental health? Could it prevent spread of infection or disease? Will it reduce any inequalities in health and well-being experienced by some localities, groups, ages etc? On the other hand, could it restrict opportunities for health and well-being?

The use of wheelie bins for refuse has enabled people to secure their waste thus mitigating the issue of street litter and attraction for pests. From the satisfaction survey, 61% (n.206) of residents feel that street cleanliness has improved since the trial began.

Health inequalities are strongly associated with deprivation and income inequalities in the city. Have you referred to Portsmouth's Tackling Poverty Needs Assessment and strategy (available on the JSNA website above), which identifies those groups or geographical areas that are vulnerable to poverty? Does this have a disproportionately negative impact, on any of these groups and if so how? Are there any positive impacts?, if so what are they?

N/A

Step 5 - What are the differences?

Are any groups affected in a different way to others as a result of your policy, service, function, project or strategy?

Under the Equalities Act 2010, the Council has a duty to ensure that they eliminate unlawful discrimination and to advance the equality of opportunity for those residents who share a protected characteristic. This may mean that people with disabilities are treated more favourably than those who do not. Residents with disabilities who would struggle to place a bin out for collection would be given an assisted collection, whereby the bin would be collected and placed back by the crew. Whereas, able bodied residents would need to put out and collect the bin themselves from the boundary with the pavement.

Does your policy, service, function, project or strategy either directly or indirectly discriminate?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you are either directly or indirectly discriminating, how are you going to change this or mitigate the negative impact?

It is possible that able bodied residents are being discriminated against, due to assisted collections being available to disabled residents. However, this is allowed under the Equalities Act (2010) as it achieves the same outcome for all residents through enabling waste to be removed from all households.

Step 6 - Make a recommendation based on steps 2 - 5

If you are in a position to make a recommendation to change or introduce the policy, service, project or strategy clearly show how it was decided on

The recommendation is to permanently install 140L wheelie bins for refuse in the Highbury trial area thus limiting refuse capacity. This has been led by the refuse tonnages decreasing, on an average of two tonnes per week, and the quality of recycling increasing (contamination reduced from 6.48% in 2015 to 5.90% in 2016). The trial has also shown that the amount of recycling in the refuse waste has decreased from 5.87% in April 2016 to 3.90% in November 2016.

From the satisfaction survey 77.1% (n.262) of residents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the introduction of wheelie bins for refuse. One resident emailed to convey their satisfaction detailing that "I want to thank all of you for implementing the black wheelie bins in our area.

What a great improvement - in environment, with regard to split black bags, smells, vermin and marauding cats (through the night targeting the black bags on peoples' drives, a real nuisance). Also black bags being blown around the streets in high winds, ending up all over the place and being split. Also people putting out rubbish too early, the day before collection, sometimes in the mornings, leaving bags around too long before collection.

For the above reasons if not more, thank you again for the black bins PLEASE DON'T TAKE THEM AWAY, make them a permanent fixture, as they are in numerous other council areas. I really don't want to have that loose rubbish bag problem again.

We have had wheelie bins before where we lived and it is so much more preferable to the black bags dumped on the driveways, often ending up causing a nuisance on the pavement or road."

When asked if residents felt the collection service has changed as a result of the bins, 89.1% (n.303) thought it had either stayed the same or improved. This indicates that the introduction of the wheelie bins have not impacted the outcome of the service as viewed by the residents. Their waste is still removed on their due collection day. The cleanliness of the streets have improved since the trial was introduced, with 61% (n.206) of residents believing it has improved and 93.2% (n.317) felt it has either improved or stayed the same.

Furthermore, 77.1% (n. 252) residents would like to keep the wheelie bin on a weekly collection. Whereas, 19.7% (n.67) preferred to go back to a black sack collection.

What changes or benefits have been highlighted as a result of your consultation?

From the start of the trial, residents have contacted us regarding the size of the bin. As there are households varying in size throughout the trial area, a 140L bin may not be adequate for a larger family. From the survey over 90% (n.154) of households with one or two people are able to fit their weekly refuse in a 140L bin. This drops to 42.3% (n. 11) when household size increases to four people. However, it then increases to 66.7% (n. 6) of households with six people are able to dispose of their weekly waste in a 140L bin.

One of the changes introduced during the trial was providing residents with a larger capacity bin (180L or 240L). If a household was unable to fit all their weekly waste in the 140L wheelie bin, an assessment was conducted by a Waste Officer. This is to ensure that the resident is recycling all that they can (i.e. no recycling found in their refuse) and their weekly refuse does not fit in the 140L bin. These assessments could continue once the wheelie bins become permanent as households can change in size. It may however, mean some form of annual review on these properties once agreed initially.

If you are not in a position to go ahead what actions are you going to take?
(Please complete the fields below)

Action	Timescale	Responsible officer

How are you going to review the policy, service, project or strategy, how often and who will be responsible?

Step 7 - Now just publish your results

This EIA has been approved by: Owen Buckwell, Director of Property & Housing Services

Contact number: 02392834503

Date:

Please email a copy of your completed EIA to the Equality and diversity team. We will contact you with any comments or queries about your full EIA.

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