

Title of meeting: Culture, Leisure and Economic Development Decision Meeting

Date of meeting: 11 December 2020

Subject: Recycling Bin Trial – Southsea Common

Report by: Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Wards affected: St Jude, St Thomas and Eastney and Craneswater

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member on outcomes of the trial installation of recycling bin provision across Southsea Seafront open spaces using the allocated Capital funding.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development notes the initial findings and approves the trial continues for a further year, following which a further report to be presented on the outcomes.

2.2 That officers are instructed to use the remaining Capital funding provision to install further recycling provision and seek other sources of funding for installation citywide.

3. Background

3.1 Southsea Common and adjoining green spaces owned by the city council are served by an assorted bin provision serviced by the Parks Grounds Maintenance Team. Fixed bins serve general waste collections, metal barbecue bins are installed at locations within the designated zones and these are supplemented in the summer months by temporary bins that comprise of metal cages or flat-pakka bins.

3.2 In 2019, the Parks Service had trialled deploying recycling bins within seafront open spaces by designating a selection of the temporary (wire mesh cage) bins for the recycling of plastic bottles and metal cans. This was not particularly successful due to the large capacity of the bins and high demand for disposing of waste resulting in contamination of the collected materials, rendering the bin collection unsuitable for disposal at the city's recycling facility.



- 3.3 Residents and visitors who wished to recycle materials would need to take their rubbish home or use one of the numerous recycling points that are available around the city, serviced as part of the recycled waste collection contract.
- 3.4 The 2020/21 Capital Programme has an allocation of £50k towards litter management to Southsea Common. Officers were asked to prioritise installation of a better recycling provision within open spaces in order to meet the expectations and demands of residents and visitors.
- 3.5 The majority of general waste litter bins now used across open spaces are blue, square polymer bins that offer 110 litre collection capacity, are reasonably robust and give uniformity with the bins commonly used across the city's public footways. The manufacturer (Glasdon) produces a range of matching recycling bins that were considered suitable for the trial.
- 3.6 In consultation with the Waste Disposal Team and Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development, the Parks Service introduced 36 new fixed recycling bins across a defined area of Southsea comprising Ladies Mile, Southsea Common east, Skatepark, Castle Field and Bandstand giving a concentrated area by which to measure its success.
- 3.7 The reasons for the choice of bin and trial location were:
- this would serve as an opportunity to review all bin provision within the selected open spaces and make adjustments where necessary. Wherever possible, bins serving general, recycling, BBQ and dog waste would be co-located to give every opportunity for the right bin to be used.
 - the new recycling bins have coloured-coded restricted apertures and posters to suit the designated recyclable product and minimise potential for contamination.
 - the new recycling bins have changeable poster frames (on all sides) and changeable aperture fittings, so if the trial ascertained the need to change the type or mix of bin, it could easily be done at relatively low cost.
 - the bins would be serviced in the same manner as the litter bins (by hand) with frequency to be determined by use.
 - the bins do not require the user to lift a lid or touch the bin, which was early guidance to prevent the transmission of COVID-19
- 3.8 Appendix A shows the location of the 36 bins at 27 locations across the designated area. Four types of bin were used:
- 9 No. plastic bottle only (red branding / signage)
 - 9 No. metal can only (grey branding / signage)
 - 13 No. combined plastic bottle and metal can only (red and grey branding / signage)
 - 5 No. mixed recyclables, that allows for paper and card as well as plastic bottles and metal cans (green branding / signage)



It was understood that the collection of mixed recycling is more prone to contamination that, including glass, but that these should form part of the trial. Glass is only accepted and collected from designated points in the city.

- 3.9 Supply of the recycling bins was delayed due to the initial lockdown of COVID-19 and subsequent delays in the supply chain. It also required the installation of new concrete bases in many locations. All bins were installed by mid-August.
- 3.10 The Waste Disposal Team met with Parks Grounds Maintenance Operatives to advise on the bagged waste that can be taken to the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) and the level of contamination that means it will need to be treated as general waste and taken to the Energy Recovery Facility (ERF).
- 3.11 The Parks Team have been monitoring collection frequency, quantity and contamination levels (by type of bin) since 18 August. The table shown in Appendix B gives a summary of the collections to date, with the headline outcomes being:
- The equivalent of 112 full bin loads were collected between 18 August and 31 October
 - The equivalent of 87.5 full bin loads were recycled – 78.1%
 - Bins were only emptied when at least 50% full. There were 165 bin collections in total with 133 of these being of acceptable material for recycling – 80.6%
- 3.12 The data around the 5 mixed recycling bins has great impact on the figures. Whilst it was understood these were more prone to contamination due to the larger aperture and lack of understanding as to what could be recycled, the location appears to have a significant impact. 3 of the mixed recycling bins were in close proximity to a food outlet and whilst the packaging material is recyclable, the food oils absorbed into this means it is not. Taking these 3 bins out of the figures, the outcomes are revised to:
- The equivalent of 85.75 full bin loads were collected between 18 August and 31 October
 - The equivalent of 80.5 full bin loads were recycled – 93.9%
 - Bins were only emptied when at least 50% full. There were 132 bin collections in total with 124 of these being of acceptable material for recycling – 93.9%

The 2 mixed recycling bins located on the Skatepark achieved good results and suggests this type of bin may still be effective if located at sites away from food outlets.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 The outcomes of the initial trial are very positive and the trial has been a good opportunity to review the bin provision for all types of waste across the designated area.



- 4.2 It is evident that this year has not been a 'regular year' and the results of the trial period should consider:
- All the bins were not installed and emptied until 18 August, which still captured some of the peak seasonal use, but results from a full year would fully evaluate use, recycling rates and determine emptying frequencies
 - The impacts of COVID-19 has increased the use of open space significantly and particularly at times when there have been restrictions placed on other activities. One of the consequences of the pandemic is that the majority of people value their open spaces more than ever and responsible litter disposal is high on many people's agenda, but that the volume of waste is also on a sharp upward trend. Encouraging people to take their litter home, as well as recycle, should still be the focus of campaigns
 - Southsea Common will usually host a full programme of events throughout the year, but this has not been the case due to COVID-19. Better bin provision is in place at Castle Field and the Bandstand but these sites need to have effective litter management, including recycling provision, embedded into event management plans to ensure disposal related to the event does not have negative impact on the fixed site provision.
- 4.3 The results show that the dedicated recycle bins with restricted apertures are effective. The variable results associated to the mixed recycling bins can be largely attributed to their location and this may be rectified by changing the type of recycling bin to plastic bottles and metal cans only and using the mixed recycling bins at alternative sites, or reverting these to a dedicated recyclable material.
- 4.4 Prior to the trial, it was estimated to cost £3.13 per visit or £244.14 per year to empty one bin and dispose of the waste at the MRF, on the assumption of emptying each bin once per week Oct-Mar and twice per week Apr-Sep.
- These figures would need to be re-visited if additional bins were deployed citywide to account for reduced collection frequencies to quieter open spaces and where it may lend itself to a dedicated team performing a more economical route. The increased cost and task of servicing the recycling bins in the initial trial area has been met within existing Parks Service resources.
- 4.5 There is currently £22.1k remaining of the allocated Capital funding for Southsea Common litter management. As a guide, this would enable a further 30 matching recycling bins to be installed across the seafront.
- 4.6 A report in 12 months' time, would enable analysis of data over a wider timeframe to fully inform the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services of the recycling rate being achieved, volumes and to inform future Capital and Revenue costs.
- 4.7 The trial of recycling bins to seafront open spaces has led to interest in similar provision being installed to other citywide open spaces. It is estimated there are



approximately 500 assorted litter bins to parks and open spaces and that approximately 300 recycling bins would be required to give good coverage of the highest footfall areas to these spaces citywide.

4.8 Many of the existing bins in open spaces are not designed to cope with the increase in volume and modern packaging. It would be desirable to review and introduce larger volume general waste and recycling bins as part of the same exercise if funding became available from external grant funding, use of Neighbourhood CIL or further Capital allocations.

5. Integrated impact assessment

5.1 An integrated impact assessment is attached.

6. Legal implications

6.1 The proposed amendment/updating of the Service Level Agreement will be beneficial as it will clarify the parties' expectations and agreed deliverables against which to assess outcomes going forward.

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 The cost of installing the additional bins referred to in para 4.5 will be met from the remaining approved 2020/21 capital provision for Southsea Common Litter Management.
Additional revenue costs for removal and disposal of waste from these bins is being met from existing revenue budgets during the trial phase of the scheme. Any future financial impact will be subject to a further report to members following completion of the trial period.

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Signed by:
Stephen Baily
Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Appendices:

- Appendix A - Southsea Recycle Station ID's
- Appendix B - Recycling Bin Monitoring Form
- Appendix C - Integrated Impact Assessment

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:



Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/
rejected by on

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Signed by: