

Report to: Environment Committee, 2nd November 2021

Report of: Corporate Director, Operations, Homes and Communities

Subject: PUBLIC BIN INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

1 Recommendations

That Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the contents of this report and approves the planned phased approach to the Ward Improvement Plans for Public Bins.**
- 1.2 Recommends to Council a supplementary estimate of £80,000 to the Capital Programme in 2021/2022.**
- 1.3 Delegates authority to the Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities to agree the programme of implementation in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee.**

2 Background

- 2.1 A report was presented to Environment Committee on 26 January 2021 proposing improvements to the current provision of litter bins across the city and introducing more public recycling bins. The Committee resolved that officers would work with Members and produce Ward level action plans. These plans would be brought back to a meeting of the Committee during 2021. The report would identify the expenditure required to fulfil the proposed plans.
- 2.2 At its meeting of 8th June 2021 the Policy and Resources Committee approved the allocation of £75,000 from the 2020/21 surplus for enhanced public waste collection services including Saturday Skips and increases in bins and collections. It was identified that £48,000 of this was required for bins and collection improvements which would allow specific locations to be improved and for additional locations to be added (Phase One) to resolve immediate problems.
- 2.3 Following an initial analysis of Ward litter bin needs, the costs associated with Phase One were identified as £80,000 and it was agreed with the Chair of the Committee that £32,000 be re-allocated from other Environmental Operations elements of the Fund to enable ordering of equipment and planning to commence.

- 2.4 Ward Member consultation commenced in August 2021. This consultation was designed to agree the public bin improvements required immediately for Phase One, and those to be carried out as Phase Two from April 2022 onwards.

3 Preferred Option for Public Bins

- 3.1 The scheme predominantly utilises a modern bin storage cabinet containing a wheelie bin of either 140 litres or 240 litres, depending on the available footprint. A smaller 80 litre bin with a traditional liner will be used in locations where there is a significant footway restriction. Bin types are shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 The wheelie bin cabinet was chosen by the Street Scene Task and Finish Group as the preferred bin type and a procurement exercise was conducted to determine costs across a range of similar styles. The bin selected provided best value for the style and branding required.
- 3.3 It is proposed to undertake implementation using a two-phase approach. This means that the work can be undertaken by the in-house minor works team within the existing resources, thereby minimising the ongoing revenue impact of the change. This will also allow time for the effectiveness of the city centre recycling bins to be further assessed before committing resources to extend recycling to additional locations.
- 3.4 The disadvantage is that the improvements will be achieved over 3 years and this may result in variable quality of the bin stock, delays in achieving efficiencies from collection round productivity gains, reduction in use of plastic sack liners, and reduction in manual handling of sacks. Officers will however do all within their powers to minimise these risks.

Phase One Implementation

- 3.5 The priorities for Phase One implementation, using the allocation of £80,000, were agreed as; consolidation of multiple bins at a wide range of locations, with an increase in capacity at those locations, and the introduction of additional bins to new locations through dialogue with Ward Members.
- 3.6 The chart in **Appendix 2** shows the current locations by Ward, detailing bin quantities and capacity as at May 2021, and the proposal for Phase One implementation during the remainder of 2021-22.
- 3.7 In summary, there will be a gain of 23 locations and an increase in bin capacity/volume of 14,455 litres. Multiple bins in the same location plan to be consolidated.
- 3.8 It is intended to undertake a communications exercise to inform residents about the improvements and changes within their wards.

Phase Two Implementation

- 3.9 Phase Two implementation will improve the bin stock further by the introduction of new litter and recycling bins in more locations giving more capacity across the city. In addition, there are 52 litter bins within Premier Parks which require refurbishment and re-branding.
- 3.10 The provision of recycling bins has been assessed where recycling is most likely to be generated, i.e. play areas, green open spaces and high-footfall pedestrian thoroughfares.
- 3.11 The chart in **Appendix 3** shows locations, bin quantities and capacity by Ward for the whole scheme. The solar compaction bins in the city centre were introduced as part of a different project and are excluded for this purpose.
- 3.12 In summary, there will be a gain of another 16 locations to achieve a total of 39 additional locations across the whole scheme and a further increase in bin capacity/volume of 70,055 litres to take total bin capacity to 147,570 litres (+134% compared to current capacity).
- 3.13 Phase Two is estimated to take up to 3 years to implement if the work is retained in-house and carried out by the Council's Minor Works Unit.
- 3.14 The introduction of additional recycling bins will be scheduled once the service has adapted to the additional number of locations and bin volumes resulting from Phase One and the early stages of Phase Two, and determined more efficient ways of working.

4 Alternative Options Considered

4.1 Remain with current arrangements

Advantages:

- No capital funding requirement.

Disadvantages:

- Minimal improvement in quality of bin stock or resilience in bin capacity.
- No expansion of public recycling.
- No reduction in manual handling of sacks.
- No reduction in use of plastic sack liners.
- No capacity in service for future growth/new development.
- Bin repairs/replacement limited to existing street furniture budget of £15,000.

4.2. Install bins by specific location or bin type.

Advantages:

- Specific locations are prioritised, and all bins assessed for improvement in one area, e.g. specific open spaces or all arterial routes.
- Image and style consistent for each locality.
- Reduced financial impact by targeting specific areas or routes on an incremental basis.

Disadvantages:

- Slower improvement in collection round productivity.
- Inequitable improvement across City if location too specific.
- Improvements are realised over a longer period; e.g., quality of bin stock, collection round productivity gains, reduction in use of plastic sack liners, reduction in manual handling of sacks.

5 Implications

5.1 Financial & Budgetary Implications

Phase One of the programme can be delivered using previously approved budgets drawn from the City Delivery Fund established at outturn 2020/21.

The estimated costs of Phase Two of the programme are £323,000. This phase is to be implemented from April 2022 to March 2025 and, if the planned approach is approved, will be included in the capital programme for 2022/23 – 2025/6 as part of the budget papers at February Council. Subject to approval of this report and subsequent approval by Council the inclusion of Phase Two in the capital programme and funded, in full, from borrowing the revenue impact will be approximately £35,000 per annum assuming a ten-year life of the bins.

Phase One also comprises capital spending and should therefore be recommended to Council for inclusion in the capital programme for the current financial year. This would enable £80,000 of the City Delivery Fund to be released for revenue projects, subject to the Policy & Resources Committee approving the release of this funding and being carried forward, as necessary, to 2022/23.

The revenue impact on repairing and replacement of the existing stock will reduce as the programme is rolled out. This will release funding from the existing budget of £15,000 which could be transferred to the maintenance of other street furniture or released as an efficiency saving.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

As Principal Litter Authority, the City Council is responsible for the provision and emptying of public bins along highways and in public spaces within the City boundary.

The procurement procedure for litter bins is conducted in compliance with the Council's Procurement Code and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

5.3 Risk Implications

The current bin stock will continue to deteriorate which will bring a health and safety risk and a negative impact on the quality of the street scene environment. There is a risk by not improving service collection arrangements then the incidents of overflowing bins may increase.

5.4 Corporate/Policy Implications

This programme supports:

- City Plan Theme: Sustaining and Improving our Assets.
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy: The Resource Efficiency theme within the Strategy states that the Council will seek to install further recycling bins around the City. This will help to meet the Strategy's intention of increasing recycling of waste and follows the waste hierarchy. In addition, the Strategy strives to build on the existing commitment to phase out single use plastics.

5.5 Equality Implications

There are no negative equality implications envisaged.

There is no specific guidance in relation to design criteria for litter bins in relation to the Equality Act 2010.

5.6 Human Resources Implications

There are no human resource implications associated with this report.

5.7 Health and Safety Implications

Public bins need to be well maintained and safe for public use. Health and safety improvements will be achieved by reducing manual handling through the expansion of mechanically lifted wheeled bins for litter collection. The public will see fewer instances of overflowing bins and any health hazards this may present.

5.8 Social, Environmental and Economic Implications

Social: Improved street scene, especially aesthetic improvements, as better bin provision can improve the quality of life for residents and visitors to the City.

Environmental: Improved style, capacity and location of bins using one bin for both litter and dog waste. Expansion of public recycling supports the Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy to enable waste to be recycled whilst people are out and sends out a clear message and reminder of the importance to recycle.

Economic: New bins will enhance the street scene across the City making Worcester a more attractive location for residents and businesses, and a more inviting destination for visitors.

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Background Papers:

- **Street Scene Transformation** – Environment Committee, 31st October 2017
- **Street Scene Transformation - Update Report** - Environment Committee, 29th May 2018
- **Capital Investment Programme – Litter Bins** – Environment Committee, 26th January 2021

APPENDIX 1

Bin styles

Litter bin cabinet with internal wheelie bin:



Public recycling bin:



APPENDIX 2

BREAKDOWN OF CURRENT AND PROPOSED BINS BY WARD FOR PHASE ONE

WARD	LOCATIONS WITH MULTIPLE BINS as at May '21			PHASE 1 2021-22		
	Current Locations	Current Litter and Dog Bins	Current Litter/Dog Bin Capacity	Proposed Locations	Proposed Residual Waste Bins	Proposed Residual Waste Capacity
Arboretum	9	18	810	13	14	2310
Battenhall	8	17	755	10	10	2200
Bedwardine	10	22	1055	12	12	2090
Cathedral	15	31	1745	15	15	2610
Claines	10	21	1150	11	11	2485
Gorse Hill	2	4	145	3	3	420
Nunnery	9	19	730	10	10	2000
Rainbow Hill	2	4	140	3	3	620
St. Clement	6	12	1215	9	9	1630
St. John	11	22	1215	13	13	1940
St. Peter's Parish	11	24	1120	15	15	3300
St. Stephen	2	4	145	2	2	280
Warndon	4	11	420	6	6	1040
Warndon Parish North	6	12	445	6	6	1340
Warndon Parish South	11	24	960	11	11	2240
TOTALS	116	245	12050	139	140	26505

APPENDIX 3

BREAKDOWN OF CURRENT AND PROPOSED BINS BY WARD FOR WHOLE CITY (BOTH PHASES)

	CITY CURRENT PROVISION as at May '21				CITY PROPOSED PROVISION			
WARD	Current Locations	Current Litter and Dog Bins	Current Recycling Bins	Current Total Capacity	Proposed Locations	Proposed Residual Waste Bins	Proposed Recycling Bins	Proposed Total Capacity
Arboretum	45	55	0	4175	48	48	9	9460
Battenhall	23	33	0	1950	26	26	6	5860
Bedwardine	58	70	0	4745	65	65	13	13430
Cathedral	155	169	3	15995	157	157	22	30720
Claines	72	87	2	7255	77	81	16	14610
Gorse Hill	15	17	0	920	16	16	0	2220
Nunnery	53	64	0	3710	51	51	4	8140
Rainbow Hill	19	21	0	850	24	24	1	3900
St. Clement	40	47	0	4170	42	42	7	8000
St. John	66	78	2	7160	71	71	10	13850
St. Peter's Parish	38	55	0	3440	44	44	12	11340
St. Stephen	35	37	0	1545	35	35	0	4170
Warndon	35	42	0	2810	37	37	2	6250
Warndon Parish North	32	39	0	1805	32	32	6	7320
Warndon Parish South	37	52	0	2530	37	37	8	8300
TOTALS	723	866	7	63060	762	766	116	147570

Chart does not include City Centre compaction bins and recycling bins.