

Communal bin review additional information

Phase 6, New Town, West End and other World Heritage Site areas

This document provides information on proposals to improve the waste and recycling service in the New Town, West End and other areas within Edinburgh's World Heritage Site. Information is also available on our website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/binhubs

Work to date

We're working with Edinburgh World Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland to help ensure we can increase the amount of waste we recycle without undermining the character of the area.

We have:

- met with community councils
- commissioned the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) to do a feasibility study. The study looked at various options for collecting waste and recycling including underground and pneumatic systems. The outcomes were reported to the Transport and Environment Committee in November 2023.
- run a trial of gull proof sacks for dry mixed recycling in some streets.

World Heritage Site

The Old and New Towns of Edinburgh were declared a World Heritage Site (WHS) by UNESCO in 1995. They stated these parts of the city 'represent a remarkable blend of two urban phenomena: organic medieval growth and 18th and 19th century town planning'.

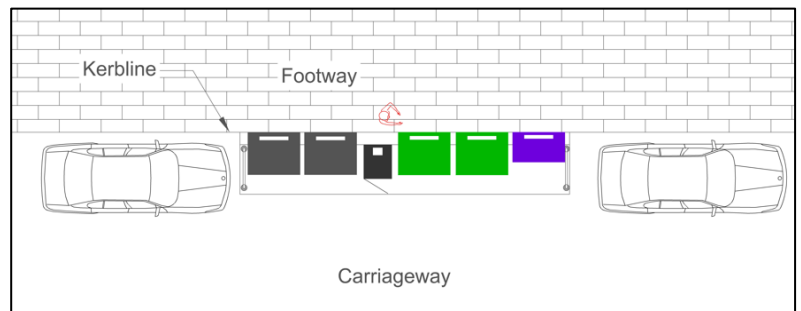
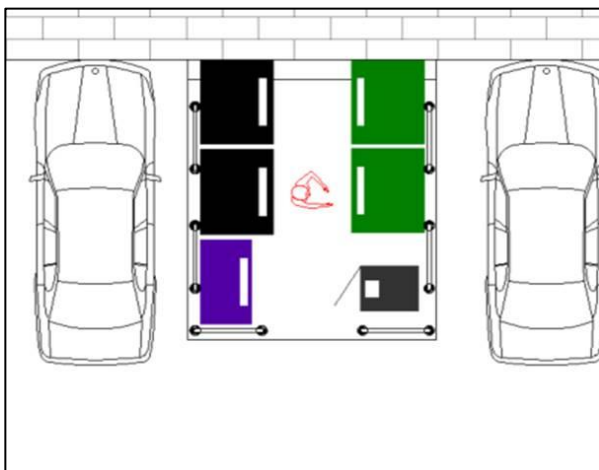
We took this into consideration whilst reviewing the waste and recycling service in the area and have agreed the following changes to reduce the visual impact of bin hubs:

- a dark green lid will be used for the mixed recycling bins
- the standard glass recycling bin lid is entirely purple but within the WHS this will be mostly black with a purple flap
- the standard metal bars at each end of the bin hub are usually chrome but we have sourced and purchased a bespoke black metal design for these bin hubs.

Bin hubs

Communal bin hubs make it easier for people to recycle by ensuring bins for non-recyclable waste, mixed recycling, glass recycling and food waste are nearby. Some of these bins are emptied more often to ensure sufficient space to recycle whilst reducing overflowing bins. The food bin is a new design which is easier to use, cleaner and contains odours better.

There are two hub layouts, and the design used depends on the parking and other aspects of the street.



The layout of the bins within the hub is indicative and each standard bin hub has:

- two bins for non-recyclable waste (black lid and black information sticker)
- two bins for dry mixed recycling (dark green lid and green information sticker)
- one glass recycling bin (smaller bin with black lid, purple flap and purple information sticker)
- one food waste bin (black metal unit with grey information sticker)
- bespoke black metal bars to clearly indicate the location for bins.

Bin hub locations

When selecting locations, we aim to fully meet the below points which have been approved by the Transport and Environment Committee. Alternative locations should also meet these criteria.

- ✓ **Safety:** We locate bins on the same side of the road as the properties intended to use them. Placing the bins on the opposite side of the road creates extra risk for people using the bins as well as for all road users. We locate bins at least 10 metres from junctions and crossing points.
- ✓ **Walking distance:** We place bins where people should not normally have to walk more than 120 metres to use them although in some circumstances this may not be possible.
- ✓ **Placement:** We place bins on roads rather than pavements to reduce street clutter. If there are bins currently on a pavement nearby these will likely be removed when bin hubs are installed.
- ✓ **Full range of waste and recycling bins:** Each bin hub includes bins for non-recyclable waste, mixed recycling, glass recycling and food waste.
- ✓ **Capacity:** Each standard bin hub provides capacity for up to 55 nearby residential properties meaning residents can dispose of their household waste and recycling in the one location.
- ✓ **Collection frequency:** Some bins are emptied more often to ensure residents have space to recycle. The non-recyclable and mixed recycling bins are emptied every two days. The food waste is serviced weekly, and the glass recycling is collected every two weeks. Collection frequencies are kept under review to ensure we reduce the risk of overflowing bins and litter.

Gull proof sack service

This service provides strong reusable sacks and boxes for residents and each household will receive:

- one black gull proof sack for non-recyclable waste
- one green gull proof sack for dry mixed recycling
- one black plastic box for glass recycling, small electronics and batteries
- an indoor and outdoor food waste caddy

These bags, boxes and caddies are solely for use by your household, to be stored within your property and presented for collection on specific days. Non-recyclable waste and food waste are collected weekly whilst dry mixed recycling, glass, small electronics and batteries are collected fortnightly. Collection frequencies are subject to change.

Non-recyclable waste must be securely bagged before being placed inside the black gull proof sack. Dry mixed recycling must also be bagged within a clear bin bag for operational purposes and placed inside the green gull proof sack. Large cardboard can be flattened and either tied or placed inside another cardboard box next to the green gull proof sack on collection day.

The existing red or black boxes currently used by some properties for dry mixed recycling will be replaced with the green gull proof sack going forward. We will arrange collection of the excess red/black boxes when future changes are made.

All larger bulky waste should be taken to one of our recycling centres or residents can arrange uplifts. This can be done at: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/bins-recycling

Further information is available online www.edinburgh.gov.uk/binhubs