

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 9 August 2018

Review of Trade Waste Bin Exemptions

Item number	7.12
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	
Council Commitments	

Executive Summary

In 2015 the Council introduced fixed timed windows for trade waste presentation and uplift. Where businesses could demonstrate they could not store food and glass within their premises they were given an exemption to allow their bins to be left on street.

The provision of exemptions was introduced on temporary basis and the Waste and Cleansing Service now seeks to end this to ensure consistency with other policies, such as the recently adapted policy on 'A' Boards, to minimise obstructions on street.

Review of Trade Waste Bin Exemptions

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Committee gives approval for the Waste and Cleansing Service to progress with the cessation of the exemption of food and glass bins on a phased basis.

2. Background

- 2.1 In 2015 the Council has rolled out a policy of fixed timed windows for trade waste presentation and uplift. This was designed to improve the visual amenity of the City at a time when the number of trade waste bins being stored on street was increasing.
- 2.2 As part of this programme a temporary exemption scheme was introduced to allow food and glass bins to be stored on street in controlled circumstances as outlined in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The temporary exemptions have not been reviewed to date and applications from businesses are still being granted which is now contrary to the Council's policy of freeing up pavement space for pedestrians and in some circumstances, could allow businesses to create a barrier for disabled residents. To date there are in excess of 360 businesses who have been granted exemptions, some of whom have multiple food and glass bins.
- 2.4 The Council is implementing a city-wide ban on advertising boards and it is therefore proposed to review this exemption scheme to ensure consistency with other policies.

3. Main report

- 3.1 Since 2015 the Council has implemented a policy of requiring businesses to present their trade waste for uplift only at specified times. This was in response to a proliferation of commercial waste bins being permanently stored on street. This was detrimental to the visual amenity of the city and in some cases presented hazards to pedestrians and other road users.
- 3.2 A pilot was initially carried out in 2014 in three areas of the city – Rose Street (and its lanes), Leith Walk and the High Street. Engagement was carried out with all businesses to advise them of their legal requirement to recycle, store and manage their waste appropriately and trade waste contractors were encouraged to work closely with their customers to find suitable solutions for the presentation and uplift

of their waste. The initial intention was to allow no trade waste bins to be stored on the street. It was agreed, however, that in exceptional circumstances where businesses could prove that they had no internal storage they could apply for an exemption to store their food and glass bin(s) on the street until an alternative arrangement could be made.

- 3.3 Following the pilot, the scheme was rolled out city wide and has been successfully implemented. The way the scheme operates is outlined in Appendix 2.
- 3.4 The exemption scheme was originally planned to be a temporary measure to allow businesses to make alternative arrangements. However, applications from businesses are still being granted which is now contrary to the Council's wider objectives of improving the local environment for pedestrians.
- 3.5 Following the success of the timed window scheme in Edinburgh, similar schemes have been implemented in Aberdeen and Glasgow. Both have learned from Edinburgh's experience and have designed their own schemes around this and also to their local circumstances. An outline of both schemes is provided in Appendix 2.
- 3.6 Glasgow, who started rolling out their timed windows in April 2018, have not allowed any exemptions and they have reported no significant impact of doing this to date.
- 3.7 It is now proposed that the exemption scheme in Edinburgh is ended and the Waste and Cleansing Service approach this on a phased basis to ensure that businesses who currently have an exemption can make alternative arrangements so that all of their waste streams are stored off street.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Success will be measured by a reduction in waste bins being stored on street and a consequent reduction in pedestrian hazards.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Implementation, engagement and enforcement will be carried out by existing staff and as such no additional funding is required.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 Implementation of this programme would be expected to support delivery of the Council's strategic objective of improving the visual amenity and pedestrian experience of the city.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 An integrated impact assessment has been carried out which has not identified any negative equalities impact.
- 7.2 A reduction in waste containers will improve the environment for all users of the street with a particular benefit likely for wheelchair users, impaired vision and pushchairs.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 An integrated impact assessment has been carried out which has not identified any negative sustainability impact.
- 8.2 A reduction in waste being stored on street and consequent improvement in visual amenity can be viewed as a positive sustainability impact.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Engagement with affected businesses will be carried out as part of the programme of implementation.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 None.

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11. Appendices

- Appendix 1 current exemptions criteria for food and glass bin storage on the street.
- Appendix 2 comparison of commercial waste presentation policies (Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Glasgow).

**CRITERIA FOR EXEMPTION TO ALLOW STORAGE OF FOOD AND GLASS BINS ON
THE PUBLIC HIGHWAY**

1. Bin must be kept locked at all times.
2. Bins must be kept clean and tidy, including the area they are sited on.
3. Due to noise restrictions, no glass to be emptied or filled between 9pm and 7am.
4. The business accepts all legal liability for any accidents occurring whilst storing waste on public land.
5. Bin must be clearly marked with business name and type of waste contained.
6. City of Edinburgh Council reserve the right to review this permission at any time.

COMPARISON OF COMMERCIAL WASTE POLICIES EDINBURGH, ABERDEEN AND GLASGOW CITY COUNCILS

The City of Edinburgh Council

Since 2015, the City of Edinburgh Council has implemented a successful city wide policy whereby trade waste bins are not allowed to be stored on public spaces. Bins or bags may only be put out for collection on street for a maximum of one hour during the authorised timed windows of 9.30am – 12 noon, 2pm – 4pm and 6.30pm – 11pm. If the waste remains uncollected after one hour, the business should remove it from the street, store it on their premises and contact their contractor to rearrange uplift. All bags and bins must be clearly marked with the business name and agreed collection time. Waste can only be presented on the street when the business is staffed and never overnight. Waste containers must be placed as near to the edge of the business property as possible, whilst ensuring there is clear pedestrian access.

- ❖ In exceptional circumstances where a business can prove that they have no internal storage space, exemption will be given to store food and glass bins **only** on the street.

Aberdeen City Council

From 1 May 2018, Aberdeen City Council will be implementing their policy to reduce the number of trade waste bins stored on the streets within the City Centre. Each bin must be clearly marked with the name of the business who uses it and cannot be left on pavements between 12.30pm and 2.30pm. Other areas of the city will have different prohibition times and will be discussed with waste collectors to ensure that their business collection continuity can be maintained.

Exemption Certificates will be available for businesses that currently are unable to comply with the requirement of the policy, for example lack of internal storage area. Exemption Certificates will only be provided, at a cost of £100 per bin, to those businesses that can show sufficient reason for the bins to remain on the street along with an improvement plan.

- ❖ The scheme is in the very early stages and is currently only relevant to Aberdeen city centre. Timescale is unknown for completion of the city wide roll out.

Glasgow City Council

In April 2017, Glasgow City Council launched the roll out of their city wide policy of not allowing trade waste bins to be stored on public spaces. The project adopted a similar strategy to the successful Edinburgh initiative but with their authorised timed windows for presentation being 7.30am – 9.30 and 5pm – 11pm. Prior to the implementation of Phase 2 it was recommended to extend the morning presentation window by 1½ hours to 07.30-11.00. This was to allow trade waste contractors to reschedule their AM uplifts, if required,

to more manageable timeframes and also provide the opportunity for city centre offices and some bar/restaurants to comply fully with the new procedures.

- ❖ Glasgow City Council's policy will be rolled out over 5 phases and is currently on Phase 2. The city wide roll out is due to be completed by March 2019. Glasgow City Council will not be granting exemptions for bins to be stored on street.