

Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report to: Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee – 28 February 2017

Subject: Petition for Debate – Against bin size reductions in Manchester ‘Grey or Black bin’ petition

Report of: Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

Purpose of the report

This report provides the Committee with the details of a petition against Manchester City Council’s introduction of smaller 140 litre general waste bins at the end of last year.

The report also outlines the procedure for the Committee to debate this petition in accordance with the Council’s Petitions Scheme.

Recommendation

The Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee is invited to recommend how to respond to the petition.

Wards Affected: All

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Background Documents

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

- Manchester City Council Petitions Scheme 2014

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the details of a petition received by Manchester City Council's ('the Council') against the introduction of smaller 140 litre general waste bins at the end of last year. A copy of the supporting statement for the petition is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The report describes the options available to the scrutiny committee under the Petitions Scheme and explains the process that can be followed by the Committee when considering the petition. The Committee is invited to recommend how the Council should respond to the petition.

2. Petition: Against bin size reductions in Manchester (Grey or Black bin petition)

- 2.1 In December 2016, the Council received a paper petition (the full statement for which is set out in Appendix 1) that contained a gross figure of 5720 signatures requiring adjudication (the process by which the validity of signatures that are attached to the petition is determined).
- 2.2 As result of the adjudication process, a significant number of the signatures were discounted and the number of valid signatures was determined as 1277. This was due to a mixture of factors; some signatories provided addresses that were clearly outside of the city boundary. A considerable number omitted to provide their name in full (a requirement of the Scheme). Another significant factor was signatories who did not provide sufficient details to enable us to clearly establish whether they either lived, worked or studied within the city boundary of Manchester.
- 2.3 An overview of the signature validity criteria ('How to sign a petition') is attached at Appendix 2 and is available for members of the public to download available on the Manchester City Council Petitions Scheme webpage (http://www.manchester.gov.uk/downloads/download/3980/petitions_scheme) with hard copies available on request from the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit.

3. Manchester City Council Petitions Scheme

- 3.1 Manchester City Council's Petitions Scheme sets out how the Council will deal with petitions that fall within the scope of the scheme. Copies of the scheme are available online at www.manchester.gov.uk/petitions or on request from the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit.
- 3.2 The Council's response to a petition is dependent on the number of valid signatures. As over 1000 valid signatures were attached to this petition, it qualifies for a debate at a scrutiny committee.
- 3.3 The Petition Organiser has been invited to this meeting of the scrutiny committee to contribute to the petition debate.

3.4 The Scheme sets out a process for scrutiny committees to follow when considering a petition. The Petition Organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition at the meeting. The relevant council officer or Executive Member will then be given 5 minutes to outline the Council's response to the petition. The Committee will then make appropriate recommendations about how to respond to the petition. Any deviation from this format will be at the discretion of the committee.

4. Recommendations

4.1 At the end of the debate, the Committee will be able to make recommendations to the decision maker about how the Council should respond to the petition. When considering how to respond to the petition, the Committee should take account of the number of petition signatures, the representations made by the Petition Organiser and the responses from Council officers and the Executive Member. The Committee is invited to consider the following options:

- a) Recommend that the Decision Maker take's the action requested in the petition's supporting statement (Appendix 1);
- b) Note the petition, and recommend that no action is taken;
- c) Recommend to the Decision Maker that an alternative course of action is taken.

4.2 The Committee's recommendations will be reported to the Decision Maker for consideration.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The Committee's recommendations will be reported to the Council through the minutes of the scrutiny committee. At an appropriate juncture after the committee meeting, the Petition Organiser will be provided with a copy of the committee's recommendations detailing any actions that the Council intends to take over the petition, and any follow up action.

PETITION AGAINST BIN SIZE REDUCTIONS IN MANCHESTER

Manchester City Council is rolling out smaller individual grey [general waste] bins across the City — a programme which it hopes to complete by the end of this year.

The standard **240 litre** grey wheelie bin will be reduced in size to just **140 litres** because the Council wishes to make savings of **£2.4 million** pounds on its annual waste disposal costs of **£36 million** per year.

Whilst we agree with the Manchester City Council about the need to reduce the increasing costs of waste disposal, we believe that reducing the size of grey bins will fail to achieve this objective and is likely to result in more problems with managing waste in our neighbourhoods. We believe that the Council has failed to take into account the following factors:

- 1]more fly tipping and environmental criminality resulting from grey bin size reductions, thereby, offsetting any savings because the Council will have to undertake expensive clean up operations;
- 2]we also believe that Manchester City Council has failed to properly consult and scrutinise its proposals, which, could have highlighted potential problems and provided people with the opportunity of challenging them;
- 3]some Manchester neighbourhoods (such as areas of high student population and Homes in Multiple Occupation) are likely to suffer even more waste mismanagement and fly tipping as a result of the reduction in size of the individual grey bins. These areas will also suffer from 'Ghost Dumping' as residents will resort to dumping in other peoples bins because they have run out of capacity;
- 4]the Council seeks to penalise residents but has not challenged supermarkets and manufacturers to reduce the amount of packaging they use;
- 5]the Council has failed to fully assess how a reduction in the capacity of grey bins is likely to impact larger families, families with children and families with disabled members in the household;
- 6]Manchester City Council has failed to provide enough time to evaluate the performance of existing 'behaviour change' strategies, which, could have resulted in improved recycling and reduced the cost of waste disposal. It is unfortunate that the Council has embarked — at great cost — on ordering new smaller grey bins for the whole City when some of that money could have been better deployed on education and enforcement.

The new smaller bins will be both labelled and 'TAGGED' !?

Will these TAGS be electronic and have the details of the property to which they've been allocated?

For these and other reasons, we would like you to support our petition to reject the roll out of the smaller grey bins and encourage Manchester City Council to make better use of existing strategies, monitoring and enforcement powers to help reduce the cost of waste disposal in the City,

This petition has been supported and compiled by the **Rusholme Community Traders Association (R.C.T.A)** in partnership with traders and residents of Manchester.

The RCTA would like to give the residents of Manchester the opportunity of rejecting MCC's roll out of the smaller general waste bins (with TAGS) and to help us make the case for retaining the existing 240 litre bins. Please take just a few seconds to add your signature to our petition - thank you.







Amar Choudhry — Hon Secretary

RUSHOLME COMMUNITY TRADERS ASSOCIATION (R.C.T.A)

Petition to Manchester City Council – signature sheet

We the undersigned petition the Council to:

Each person signing the petition should provide their name, signature and a home, work or study address that is in the boundaries of Manchester City Council. Any signatures that do not include this information will not be counted.

Name (please print)	Address including postcode if possible (This should be a clearly identifiable Manchester based address)	Signature	Do you Live, Work or Study in Manchester? (please indicate)	Valid? yes or no?	Reason
Joe Bloggs	3 Easy St, M4 6TQ		Live	✓	Full name, Manchester address and signature are clearly identifiable
J. Bloggs	3 Easy St, Ancoats		Work	✓	Full name, signature and an identifiable Manchester address is given
J. Bloggs	3 Easy St, M4		Study	✓	Full name, signature and an identifiable Manchester address is given
Joe	3 Easy St, M4 6TQ		Live	✗	Surname not given – so we cant be sure of who you are
J. Bloggs	3 Easy St		Work	✗	No postcode – we cant be sure this address is in Manchester
J. Bloggs	3 Easy St, M4 6TQ		Study	✗	No signature has been provided - we cant be sure this is you
J. Bloggs	Easy St, M4 6TQ		Live	✗	You haven't provided a full postal address – we cant be sure of where you live