

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 08 January 2018

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Streetscene
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Refuse and Recycling Collection from Private Service Roads in Portchester</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Streetscene
<b>Strategy/Policy:</b>	
<b>Corporate Objective:</b>	To Protect & Enhance the Borough

**Purpose:**

To resolve a problem that has arisen with the collection of waste and recycling bins in an area of Portchester.

**Executive summary:**

Currently, refuse bins, recycling bins and garden waste sacks from properties in the area around West Street Portchester, between The Queensway and The Kingsway, are collected from private service roadways to the rear of the properties.

There have been ongoing problems with the refuse collection vehicle (RCV) accessing these narrow roadways. In addition, the surface of the roadways is of poor quality and deteriorating which presents a hazard to the crews collecting the bins and bags. The Transport Manager has undertaken an onsite assessment of the situation and the associated risks and has concluded that the access is not suitable for an RCV.

Residents affected have been consulted about a proposal to collect bins and garden waste sacks from the front of their properties, which is the standard service across the Borough. Residents would have the choice to either store bins in the front garden, or continue with their current storage arrangement and take their bin and garden waste sack from the rear to the front of their property each week for collection.

There have been some objections to the proposal, but the majority (86%) did not respond to the consultation.

**Recommendation/Recommended Option:**

It is recommended that the Executive:

- (a) agrees to cease the collection of bins and garden waste sacks from the private roadways as detailed in the report; and
- (b) agrees the proposal that bins and garden waste sacks from the affected properties be collected from the edge of the public highway at the front of property.

**Reason:**

To alleviate the risks associated with the RCV accessing the roadways and the risk of injury to the crews as a result of the poor-quality surface.

**Cost of proposals:**

None

**Appendices:** None

**Background papers:** None

**Reference papers:** None

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### Executive Briefing Paper

<b>Date:</b>	08 January 2018
<b>Subject:</b>	Refuse and Recycling Collection from Private Service Roads in Portchester
<b>Briefing by:</b>	Head of Streetscene
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Streetscene

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Currently, refuse bins, recycling bins and garden waste sacks from properties in the area around West Street, Portchester, between The Queensway and The Kingsway are emptied from private service roadways which run behind the houses.
2. There have been ongoing problems with the refuse collection vehicle (RCV) accessing these narrow roadways. In addition, the surface of the roadways is of poor quality and deteriorating, which presents a hazard to the crews collecting the bins and bags.
3. Officers have been looking at ways to resolve the issues and have consulted residents about the preferred option. This report sets out the issues and responses to the consultation and recommends a solution to resolve the problems.

#### BACKGROUND

4. The entrance to the roadways that serve the affected properties is narrow and it is difficult to safely manoeuvre the RCV into and out of the roadways. Vehicles are frequently parked opposite and around the entrance which forces the driver to cross grass verges causing damage to the verges. Complaints have been received from residents, who live at the entrance to the roadways, who are unhappy with the RCV reversing close to their properties.
5. The surfaces of the roadways are uneven, and present a trip hazard to the crew pulling bins. It is difficult to load bins onto the hoist on uneven ground and deep puddles form during wet weather. In some places pot-holes have been filled in with gravel, but the weight of the vehicle disperses the gravel so that it banks up making it impossible to pull bins across. Inevitably the surface will deteriorate further so the situation will become worse.
6. The roadways are not adopted by Hampshire Highways and therefore the responsibility of maintenance lies with the owners. The roadways are in multiple ownership, mostly in strips behind each property or in front of a garage.

7. The Council could request the areas be resurfaced to a suitable standard. However, this would take a long time and the Council would not have any means of stipulating the work be done or to what standard. It is highly unlikely any resurfacing undertaken would be up to the standard required for an HGV which could make the Council liable for any future claims for damage.

## **PROPOSAL**

8. The Transport Manager has undertaken an onsite assessment of the situation and the associated risks and has concluded that the access is not suitable for an RCV for the reasons set out in the report. Therefore, officers have been considering alternative arrangements.
9. The preferred solution is to collect bins and garden waste sacks from the front of properties, which is the standard service across the Borough. Residents would have the choice to either store bins in the front garden, or continue with their current storage arrangement. They would be required to take their bin and garden waste sack from the rear to the front of their property each week for emptying.
10. In the neighbouring road, The Fairway, approximately 50% of properties have bins stored in the front garden permanently and many of the properties on West Street have similar sized gardens.
11. An alternative would be to have a collection point at the end of the service roadways and ask residents to pull their bins and garden waste sacks to this point. Experience suggests that this arrangement can lead to a collection of bins blocking access and some bins not being retrieved after emptying. It also attracts the dumping of waste and causes a nuisance to the people living adjacent to the collection points.
12. The land at the end of the roadways is private, and at least one resident has indicated he would not give permission for bins to be put on his land for collection. Therefore, this is not a preferred option.

## **CONSULTATION**

13. A total of 77 individual properties are affected. A consultation letter was sent in September 2017 and 18 responses were received. One respondent agreed with the proposal, 15 objected and two did not have strong feelings either way. Most residents (86%) did not respond.
14. Several people suggested double yellow lines to prevent parked cars blocking access. However, Hampshire County Council only consider installing lines where statistics show there is a proven benefit of casualty reduction. Parking restrictions are also likely to be unpopular with those residents who currently park outside their house.
15. There were some residents who said they would require an assisted lift. This is a service offered by Streetscene for elderly or disabled residents who are unable to pull their bin or sack out to the collection point. In these cases the crews will enter the property and collect the bin or sack from the storage point, which must be accessible to the crews.
16. Any requests for an assisted lift would be assessed in accordance with the normal criteria. However, those who need an assisted lift would be required to store their bins in the front garden. It is not practical for the crew to collect bins from the back garden or behind the rear fence.

## **CONCLUSION**

17. The report has highlighted the problems and associated risks with collecting refuse and recycling bins and garden waste sacks from private roadways in this area of Portchester. Following an assessment of the current collection arrangements, the Transport Manager has concluded that an alternative means of collection needs to be implemented.
18. If the Executive agrees the proposal outlined in the report, a letter will be sent to all residents concerned, to notify them of the change in the collection arrangements.

### **Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Mark Bowler. (Ext 4747)