Kingston Town Neighbourhood Committee
14 June 2016
Big Belly Bin Trial Review
Report by Director of Place

Purpose
To report on the trial of Big Belly Bins which took place in Kingston Town Centre between August 2015 and March 2016.

Recommendations
To consider the success of the trial of Big Belly Bins and discuss options for their future in Kingston Town Centre.
To Resolve that -
1. The street scene in Kingston Town Centre would be enhanced by the addition of Big Belly Bins; and
2. Review their potential to be installed permanently in Kingston Town Centre, subject to an analysis of the financial, legal and environmental implications.

Key Points
A. The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Kingston First and Veolia entered into a trial of Big Belly Bins on 26 August 2015 with the intention of:
   - Reducing the street clutter within the Town Centre bid-area;
   - Removing the need for street sweepers to empty litter bins in the Town Centre bid-area;
   - Improving the overall level of street cleanliness of the Town Centre area;
   - Decreasing the number of litter bin empties in the trial area.

B. This trial was supported by Kingston Town Neighbourhood Committee funding.

Context
1. Big Belly Bins offered a more targeted approach to street cleansing by notifying street cleansing operators when the bin is more than 75% full, in accordance with a traffic light system on the bin itself (green is shown if the bin is less than 75% full and does not require emptying; amber is shown is the bin is more than 75% full but less than 85% full and red is shown if the bin is more than 85% full).

2. This makes litter bin collections more efficient by avoiding emptying litter bins needlessly and making visits to litter bins more targeted. The Big Belly Bins also benefit from a solar powered compactor, thereby increasing the capacity of each bin.
by compacting the waste inside after use. This ultimately aims to reduce the amount of time spent emptying litter bins.

3. Between The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Kingston First and Veolia it was agreed that the focus should be the pedestrianised areas of the Town Centre (highlighted in Figure 1) and that the existing 26 litter bins should be replaced by 10 Big Belly Bins (as indicated by the red dots in Figure 1).

Figure 1: Map of the trial area and the locations of the Big Belly Bins

4. The installation of the Big Belly Bins coincided with the launch of the Council’s ‘Cleaner Kingston’ campaign and the bins were branded with this imagery (as shown in Figure 2).

Figure 2: Big Belly Bins in Kingston Town Centre

5. Following the installation of the Big Belly Bins it became apparent that there were some operational issues and several meetings were held over the course of the trial where these issues were discussed and resolutions suggested. These are outlined in Table 1 below.
Table 1: Operational issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Satisfactory resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Placement of the Big Belly Bin</td>
<td>Castle Street</td>
<td>A number of retailers in Castle Street were unhappy with the location of the BBB.</td>
<td>Based on usage analysis it was determined one bin on Castle Street could be relocated.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamming hoppers</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>The pull out drawer where users deposit rubbish can become blocked if larger items are forced into the opening, creating the appearance of a full bin.</td>
<td>For the duration of the trial the street sweepers were asked to make cursory checks to unblock any hoppers.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarette holders</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>The locks on the cigarette holders attached to the side became jammed, meaning they could not be emptied.</td>
<td>The issue with the locking mechanism has been resolved in other models.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Our pre-trial monitoring indicated that the 26 litter bins in the selected trial area were being emptied up to six times per day, whereas the Big Belly Bins were being emptied once per day each. Table 2 illustrates the efficiencies made as a result.

Table 2: Headline efficiencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of bin</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Number of empties per day</th>
<th>Number of empties per week</th>
<th>Number of empties per month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>1,902</td>
<td>4,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Belly</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. As mentioned above, the Big Belly Bins provided the Council and Veolia with notifications advising us when the bins required emptying (when the sensor hits amber or red). Table 3 shows the number of collections made on green, amber or red and tells us how efficient the trial was in Kingston Town Centre. It should be noted that the efficiency achieved on this trial is the second best efficiency rate achieved out of all Big Belly Bin contracts (including Sydney and New York).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of fill</th>
<th>Number of empties made</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Overall efficiency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMBER</td>
<td>1,744</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RED</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,212</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposal and Options

8. It is recommended that, based on the results achieved in the trial and the positive resolution to the issues presented during the trial that the Council investigate (possibly in partnership with Kingston First) the potential to enter into an agreement with Big Belly Bins across, and just outside of the Kingston Town Centre bid-area, subject to financial implications.

Consultations

9. None proposed.

Timescale

10. Any potential agreement with Big Belly Bins would have to be progressed with Commissioning, and a timeline developed with them.

Resource Implications

11. There are currently 121 traditional litter bins in the Kingston Town Centre and just outside. Based on the information determined in the trial, this number can be significantly reduced should an agreement be entered into with Big Belly Bins, and the Council could reduce the number of litter bin empties by approximately 270,000 per year.

Legal Implications

12. To be confirmed.
Risk Assessment

13. Not applicable at this stage.

Equalities Impact Assessment

14. If the Council were to enter into an agreement with Big Belly Bins it is suggested an Equality Impact Assessment is considered as part of the agreement.

Environmental Implications

15. Should the Council enter into an agreement with Big Belly Bins, the requirement for the street sweepers to empty litter bins in the Kingston Town Centre bid-area (and just outside) would be eliminated. As a result, the beat sweepers would be able to concentrate their efforts on the sweeping of the town centre, leading to an overall improvement of the street scene.

16. The reduction in litter bins would also reduce the appearance of street clutter in the town centre, enhancing the overall user experience of Kingston Town Centre.

Background papers - None other than those referred to in this report

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Report OK to release for Final agenda? (insert name of authorising Officer and date)