

## **Deputation to Transport and Environment Committee meeting to be held on 16 November 2023 regarding item 8.3 Communal Bin Review Update**

The New Town and Broughton Community Council (NTBCC) notes the excellent work that has been undertaken to modify the location of bin hubs to be installed in Phase 3&4 to take account of the views of residents and welcomes the recommendation to further consider the waste collection arrangements throughout the World Heritage Site. In principle, we support the proposals but recognise that there remains much work to be done to finalise the arrangements, not least effective engagement with all residents affected by the recommended changes.

We also welcome the work that has been undertaken to allow a trial of the green gull proof sacks on a limited number of streets in the New Town in the last year. Although the report refers to the limited impact of this initial trial on the overall tonnage of recycling collected, our own monitoring of individual streets has shown a 250% increase in the volume of dry mixed recycling that is being collected. This number was accepted by the waste collection staff as being a reasonable estimate of the impact of the green gull proof sacks. As the trial only covered nine streets, the tonnage being measured across all streets in the city centre area would not be expected to be greatly affected by that from the trial streets. We therefore believe that the volume of recycling collected and participation rates are better metrics for any trial.

Although the initial trial did not include any measurement of non-recyclable waste volumes, anecdotal evidence suggests that there is less such waste being put out for collection. The newly extended trial will allow this to be properly tested, encourage an increase in the presentation of food waste for recycling and provide further useful information to guide future decisions about the most appropriate arrangements to enhance recycling in the whole of the City Centre.

We agree that the recommendations from the APSE report to install pneumatic or other underground refuse systems are currently neither practical nor financially viable. We are pleased to note that the APSE report highlights the unacceptable impact of communal bin hubs on the heritage of World Heritage Site as shown by the Heritage Impact Assessment conducted by Simpson and Brown last year. We believe that heritage impact should be included in any decisions about waste collection in areas 5 A, B and C as well as other areas that border the World Heritage Site.

One of the important lessons from the initial green gull proof sacks trial has been the importance of direct engagement with Council officers and local residents, which has ensured that the key messages about the need to increase recycling are delivered and that feedback from residents can be properly considered. Such positive engagement will be critical to the decision-making and deployment of any new arrangements for collection of waste and recycling across the World Heritage Site.

The NTBCC would welcome the opportunity to directly participate in the engagement process in our area and with other Community Councils that will be affected by these decisions. Jointly, we believe that we can make a positive impact on achieving the City's recycling goals.