

Equalities Analysis in Lambeth

Proposal Title *

Solar Powered Compacting Smart Bins - GW3 stage

Author

[REDACTED]

Please provide name of lead author and/or those within project team who may be required to contribute to this assessment

Who will sign off the assessment?

Bayo Dosunmu

Please indicate who will be involved in approving this assessment. This will need to be signed off by the Director

Q1a. What is changing?

This EIA is not much changed from the business case stage which was approved by Venetia Reid Baptiste.

Lambeth is seeking to procure solar powered 'smart' litter bins to replace the existing litter bins within Lambeth's town centres. Smart litter bins contain a solar powered battery enabling an internal compacting mechanism to compact the waste inside, allowing the bins to accommodate five times the amount of waste typically held in a bin of that size. The smart bins contain internal sensors and a microchip which sends an alert when the bins require emptying and will provide the Authority with data to monitor usage and quantify how much litter from litter bins is being recycled.

The new bins are intended to smarten up Lambeth town centres, reduce the quantity of sacks left on street, increase recycling, and improve the overall environmental quality within town centres.

The tender process is now complete for approximately 80 bins initially which will stand in pairs (one for recycling, one for general waste) in all the town centres. They are slightly larger/taller in size than the usual street litter bins.

What is the most significant or key change taking place? Can you indicate the type of change in your response (e.g. policy/decision/strategy/ service/procedural/ geographic/procurement etc.) so it is clear what is being equalities assessed? Why is this change happening? What do you aim to achieve? Can you clearly indicate what decision-makers are being asked to take a decision on?

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Q1b. Who will be involved in approving this decision?

The Divisional Director for Environment and Streetscene and the Strategic Director for Resident Services

Who else will be involved in signing-off this decision?

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Q2a. What do we know about the people who will be impacted by this change?

This decision will impact all people that visit any one of Lambeth's town centres and would need to dispose of their litter. In addition to Lambeth residents, this may include people that are working, studying or visiting the borough. As this is a change to a generic service provision, this affects people from protected characteristic groups, but will not affect any one protected characteristic group more adversely than anyone else.

Lambeth's street cleaning contractor will be impacted by the change. This includes the street cleaners working directly within the town centres and the managers.

What does your information tell you about the people who will be affected by this change? Are protected groups impacted? What information do you hold on the protected characteristics of the people affected by the change? (Age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race/ethnicity, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, health, socio-economic, language) Are there any gaps or missing information?

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Q2b. How will they be impacted by the change?

It is anticipated that the change in litter bins will have a positive impact on the user. The bins will now include a foot pedal which opens a wide aperture, minimising the need for the user to have contact with their hands. The bins have a dual opening system, so if the user is unable to use the foot pedal there is a handle option. As the bins contain sensors, it is anticipated that they will not overflow and will always have capacity during core cleaning hours.

Town centre cleaners who will be responsible for emptying the bins, will be required to empty less often as the bins hold five times the regular capacity, due to the compacting mechanism.

Would you assess the impact as positive, adverse, neutral? Do you have any uncertainty about the impact of your proposal? Is there a likelihood that some people will be more impacted than others? Can you describe the ways in which they will be affected? How might this change affect our 'general duty'?

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Q3a. How do you plan to promote and deliver any positive impacts of the proposal?

Twice a year Environmental Services promote Lambeth waste and recycling initiatives within the Lambeth Talk resident magazine. Promotion of the litter new bins would feed into one of the Lambeth Talk articles highlighting the benefits of the new bins. We are benefitting from the fully funded support of environmental charity Hubbub to help deliver the campaign and evaluate the usage afterwards.

Environmental Services also utilise social media platforms to promote sustainable waste management, including the importance of conforming to the waste hierarchy. If the bins deliver a measurable increase in recycling from litter, this will feed into achieving the recycling performance for local authority collected waste, which has a target of 44% by 2025 in Lambeth's Waste Strategy. This performance will be presented to senior management and cabinet members.

How might the principles of fairness, equality of opportunity and positive relationships be further promoted as a consequence of this proposal? How do you propose to measure your positive outcomes and the benefits outlined to find out if these have been achieved?

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Q3b How do you plan to address and mitigate any negative impacts of the proposal?

Ahead of installation all BIDs will have been consulted and would have had a say on where the bins should be positioned within their town centre area. The expectation would be that they inform their BID members, so they are aware of the changeover. All cleaning staff will be briefed prior to installation to ensure they are familiar with the new emptying regime and how the sensors will operate.

We will also ensure that when installed there is the required distance (1.5m) of clear walkway so that no one pushing a buggy or using a wheelchair is impeded. The height of the aperture of the bins is also designed to allow a wheelchair user to easily access it.

Overall, we do not foresee many negative impacts from this proposal as these bins are an enhancement of what is currently in place and serve a vital purpose for Lambeth high streets. Once installed they will be monitored at regular intervals.

What impact has this evidence had on what you are proposing? What can you do differently that might lessen the impact on people within the timeframes i.e. development-implementation? Who can help you to develop these solutions?

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Q4. How will you review/evaluate your proposal, mitigating actions and/or benefits? Who will be responsible for this?

As the bins will now provide usage data, the Authority will be able to monitor usage and emptying frequencies for each of the containers. The data can then be analysed for both the recycling and residual waste bins. Together with visual quality control checks on the recycling, the Authority will have an insight into how much litter from litter bins is being recycled. The data will show the usage ratio between the residual or recycling bins, and staff on the ground will be able to assess the quality of the recycling collected. This data will be reviewed monthly by the analyst within the waste contractor and Lambeth's Senior Contract Officer. This data will be incorporated into the Monthly Contract Performance Reports which includes data regarding street cleaning and recycling. Data from the Monthly Contract Performance Reports will be shared with the Director and Cabinet Members.

An evaluation out charity partner Hubbub will also be carried out to assess the quality of the recycling by analysis the composition of the materials put into the bins.

Who will you be accountable to for the above actions/outcome? How will those responsible know these actions have worked? What performance indicators will you use to demonstrate this? Are there any other forms of evidence you can use to support this assessment of their effectiveness?

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Section to be completed by Sponsor/Director/Head of Service

Outcome of equality impact assessment

- No adverse impact, no change required
- Low adverse impact, minor adjustment required
- Significant adverse impact, further action required
- Significant impact identified unable to mitigate fully
- Unlawful in/direct discrimination, stop and rethink

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Comments from Sponsor/Director/Head of Service

Submit for approval
Submit for approval

When you are ready for the assesment to be reviewed by your Director, please select 'Submit for Approval' from the drop down. (Or select Resubmit if requesting approval after a rejection)

Executive Approval
Approved

For Directors: Please use the drop down to Approve or Reject the Assessment. (You will need to click 'Edit Item' at the top of the form to do this)

Attachments

Close