

# Communal Bin Review - Updated Review Framework (Approved November 2024)

## INTRODUCTION from SMAG

This document reviews the new bin hub framework, posted by the CEC and previously sent out to SMAG members. These comments in red give our best view of the new clauses, with the intention that residents seeking to review their local bin hub have a good grasp of CEC intentions.

We have to accept that the CEC has made a serious effort to respond to residents' concerns over the Bin Hub story. Although individually we mostly feel that the original plan was poorly devised, essentially as a means of improving re-cycling, the fact that they have offered serious possibilities for change is a sign that they are now responding to our concerns.

So now it behoves us to respect this change and to realise that the machinery of waste management makes it hard to please everyone. We also need to be aware that, since the CEC has made these significant changes, they are very unlikely to revisit the issue to make further amendments! So any proposals we make for a review of any bin hub location MUST, in our view, conform to this new framework if it is to be acceptable to the decision-makers!

Please accept these SMAG comments as guidance as to what we believe is most acceptable to the CEC. You can disagree with us, and make your individual bid for a review more assertive. That is up to you, our comments are well meant but not authoritative!

### The CEC Text:

This framework should be used when:

- Determining locations for new bin hubs, as part of any changes to the waste and recycling service
- Reviewing existing bin hub locations currently installed and operational

It has been made clear to the Committee that any proposed changes to existing bin hubs must adhere to these new rules.

New and existing bin hub locations should satisfy all these requirements, where possible. Nevertheless, the framework is a set of 'best case' guidelines. With agreement and collaboration between residents, councillors, and officers, discretion can be applied to the siting of a hub in such a way that may not conform with the framework due to the variations and requirements within different streets.

Here the CEC is allowing for discretionary concessions. But it is not clear how this can be agreed. The key is the 'best case' descriptor which allows an agreement IF no-one objects.

The Edinburgh Street Design Guidance (ESDG) factsheets provide guidelines on how our streets and roads should be designed regarding the usage of space, accessibility and road safety. As such, distances and measurements included in any ESDG factsheets will be preserved.

SMAG is still trying to identify all the ESDG details. The total published is very long!

The following set out the basic parameters:

1. Range of materials collected: Non-recyclable waste (NRW), dry mixed recycling (DMR), glass and food waste. (See guidance note 1)

Glass collection is still 'under review'. We hope to reduce the number of collection points but this is not yet on offer.

**2. Capacity (L) provided per property per week:** NRW = 140/170L, DMR = 140/170L, Glass = 5/20L, Food waste = 5/20L (See guidance note 1)

SMAG does not yet know the source of these data allowances

**3. Walking distance:** Relaxed from 100 meters to 120 meters (See guidance note 2)

The distance allowed to reach a Bin Hub is still a contentious issue. It is complicated by the CEC requirement to 'cater' for disabled residents. SMAG believes that there needs to be a more coordinated analysis of the number of Bin Hubs needed. An excess of Bin Hubs increases noise and smell levels and encourages fly tipping

**4. Road safety requirements and streetscape:**

**a.** bins 10mtrs away from junctions and pedestrian crossings except where a oneway street or pavement build-out has resulted in a potential hub-site that is safe for residents and workers;

This is a key element of the CEC regulations and so review applicants need to measure up and justify any site choices. Although 10 mtrs seems a lot, the rule needs to be adhered to

**c.** bin hubs can be placed on opposite side of the road/pavement if: -

**i.** it is a 20mph road

**ii.** road width does not exceed 10.5mtr except where the street is a cul de sac, no through road or there is a safe crossing (zebra, toucan or pelican) or other safety measure such as a pavement build-out or a pedestrian island within 120 meters; (Max unprotected walking crossing distance as per ESDG) (See guidance note 3)

**iii.** clear 25mtr lines of sight maintained based on derived sight stopping distances (SSD)

**iv.** No accident history within 25m radius from proposed location except where adequate mitigating improvements have been made since the incident(s)

**v.** Safe space to use bins – min pavement or other hard-standing or grass/park area with width of 1.5 metres (ESDG). However, where this is not possible, a hub can be sited across a road on a 'non-residential' side of a residential street with bins arranged in such a way that allows a resident to stand in the safe space between two bins

Section C i-v is another key consideration by CEC. Again, applicants for change need to measure up and justify any proposal in detail.

**d.** Consideration should be given to residents' amenity (immediate outlook, noise, privacy) and whether the hub can be sensitively integrated into the streetscape without incurring disproportionate cost; any perceived impact being transferred to another property should be evaluated;

This is a key 'break clause' for the CEC. Applicants should try to demonstrate a deterioration of 'resident's amenity' for a Bin Hub: setting out noise and other disturbances to a property. However, we do not know who would actually 'approve' of an 'off-piste' change. Councillors should be briefed directly by any applicant.

e. Parking optimization should be considered but is secondary to resident satisfaction with the hub-sites

**5. Hospitality:** Bin hubs should not be sited directly adjacent to an outdoor area currently used for tables and chairs by a hospitality venue. *(See guidance note 4)*

This rule should also prevent Bin Hubs from being placed adjacent to FOOD shops displaying fresh merchandise. But it is not clear that this constraint would apply!

**6. Resident amenity:** Bin hubs should be sited in locations which minimise any negative impacts on resident amenity (if at all possible), meaning specifically the impacts of noise and odours and the impacts on privacy and outlook. *(See guidance note 5)*

Applicants for change need to stress any 'negative impacts on resident amenity' to reinforce their case.

### **Guidance Notes**

These guidance notes are included to provide additional context on the application of the criteria included in the Updated Review Framework.

**Guidance note 1:** The provision of glass recycling at each bin hub to be reviewed postimplementation of the project with regard to capacity requirements linked to usage data of the glass recycling bins.

**Guidance note 2:** Walking distance can be relaxed provided the total walking distance including crossing a road (as outlined in criteria 4C) does not exceed 120 meters and that there is no adverse impact on capacity for nearby bin hubs.

**Guidance note 3:** Consideration should be given to road width requirements in cul-de-sacs and no through roads. Protecting pedestrians and road users must remain a priority.

**Guidance note 4:** To preserve resident amenity (criteria 6), in streets with both residential and hospitality premises, bin hubs may be placed in front of hospitality venues. Bin hubs located near premises (hospitality or otherwise) which do not currently use outdoor seating will not necessarily be moved if a permit is subsequently granted for tables and chairs.

**Guidance note 5:** Changes to criteria 1, 2, 3 & 4C(ii) are designed to allow greater flexibility and consideration of the impact on resident amenity

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The basic document of this framework was produced by the CEC and full details can be found on their web site at

[Communal bin review – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

And

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/36148/updated-review-framework-november-2024>

*The notes in **red** have been added by SMAG to assist residents' understanding of the framework. But they have no administrative or legal standing. This is another reason why Councillors should be advised of any submission for change from any resident.*