

Policy for the provision of Litter Bins - Draft

Policy Statement

- 1.0 The policy has been agreed by the Corporate & Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is submitted to Cabinet for approval.

Scope

- 2.1 The policy sets out the principles which will be followed for the future selection and installation of litter bins, reviewing existing litter bin sites, and ensuring that the correct bin types are used in the most appropriate locations.
- 2.2 The Appendix outlines the factors which need to be taken into consideration when determining the installation of a litter bin.

Definitions

- 3.1 Litter is waste which is disposed of “on the go” either in a litter bin or discarded loose in the environment or as a result of an accidental escape from a premises, domestic bin, etc.
- 3.2 For the purposes of this policy litter is generally distinct from household and commercial waste.
- 3.3 Fly tipping is a separate issue and will be dealt with according to current policy.
- 3.4 It should be noted however that there may be some overlap. Waste materials which are spilled from a household or commercial waste collection or illegally disposed of by a business will enter the environment as litter.

Policy content

- 4.1 The policy is designed to outline the principles which will be followed in:
 - ✓ selecting and reviewing where litter bins are located across the Borough
 - ✓ informing decision making for future litter bin installation sites
 - ✓ assisting in the decision making process regarding existing litter bin locations with the ultimate objective of locating the correct size and type of bin in the correct place, reflecting demand.
- 4.2 The Council’s capacity to provide litter bins is finite. It is likely that the demand for litter bins will, at certain times or locations, exceed the capacity to provide the service.

- 4.3 It is expected that the criteria outlined in the policy should assist with managing litter bin provision. In addition, no review process currently exists to ensure that litter bin locations continue to match the expectation of when a bin was originally installed, taking into account changes to usage patterns and external factors such as vandalism.
- 4.4 A range of bin types may be deployed across the Borough taking into account the following:
- ✓ Availability of litter bin stock
 - ✓ Size of litter bin versus usage / demand
 - ✓ Type of location
 - ✓ Introduction of litter bin innovation e.g. sensors / compaction bins
- However, a consistent design and colour of litter bin should be adopted by the Council to promote image
- 4.5 It is intended that future litter bin sites will be selected by using defined criteria and guiding principles. These will include (but are not restricted to):
- ✓ Operational efficiency
 - ✓ Usage patterns
 - ✓ Health and safety considerations associated with servicing of litter bins
 - ✓ Links to any other relevant policies and criteria:
e.g. planning / installation of street furniture
- 4.6 The type, size and location of litter bins should be linked to usage by the public, and in particular how frequently they are required to be emptied. These are the key determinants which need to be matched to service delivery and flexibility in terms of servicing frequency in addition to the ability to route services effectively and efficiently.

Usage and efficiency

- 5.1 Changes to the ways in which litter bins are managed will be governed by two factors: how they are used by the public, and how efficiently they can be serviced.
- 5.2 The use of routing software and the potential installation of litter bin sensors (to be agreed) and / or compaction bins will assist in the improvement of efficiency and responsiveness of the Clean & Green Service. Data gathered throughout this process will also be used to determine locations for the installation of bins to maximise their efficiency.

Prioritisation Criteria

- 6.1 It is not possible to define specific sites which will and will not receive litter bins as each request will be assessed against defined criteria once adopted,

however the following areas will normally be viewed as high priority to receive litter bins:

- ✓ Main arterial routes and other high footfall and through route areas
- ✓ Main areas of commerce and retail
- ✓ Key routes in relation to secondary schools
- ✓ Proximity to fast food and takeaway retailers
- ✓ Public transport hubs
(e.g. Bus stops and similar areas) where large numbers of people stand for periods of time
- ✓ Entrances to parks and significant public spaces

6.2 The following areas will not normally be viewed as high priority for litter bin placements, or may in some cases be ruled out for litter bin placement:

- ✓ Exclusively residential areas, except where these become high priority due to one of the reasons outlined in 6.1
- ✓ Locations where the litter bin is being abused, including: inappropriate disposal of household or commercial waste which has not been resolved by engagement or enforcement; sites which are subject to arson or vandalism.

Other Considerations

Installations with due regard to pedestrian access

7.1 Care must be taken to ensure that litter bins do not impede pedestrian flow and take into account the particular needs of wheelchair users and access for prams. A minimum footpath width of 1.5m must be maintained.

Parks and other similar public spaces

8.1 The installation of litter bins within public parks, playgrounds and greenspaces presents particular challenges in terms of efficiency. It is usually viewed as beneficial to encourage park users to take their waste to strategic locations, usually at entrances and exits, so that the litter bin can be serviced safely without having to drive into or around greenspace locations and limiting the distance an operative has to walk carrying bags. Consideration should be given to this for future litter bin installations.

8.2 Moving forward, consideration should be given to:

- ✓ Where appropriate, litter bins being relocated from throughout parks to key locations at entrances and exits for efficiency of emptying and ensure maximum capacity litter bins are provided
- ✓ The facilities should be designed to take account of the usage of the sites

Specific Waste Streams

- 9.1 Dog waste: As agreed at Council in February 2016 the policy is to maximise efficiency by collecting dog waste as mixed waste within litter bins – no dedicated dog waste bins will be installed going forward and those currently in situ will be phased out on a rolling programme, ensuring that a litter bin is available within close proximity of the original dog waste bin.

Sale of litter bins to other stakeholders / advertisements

- 10.1 Large commercial organisations within the Borough may be willing to purchase a litter bin to be installed outside their premises if they are a major waste producing business e.g. fast food restaurants. The option of advertising for the business should be explored with regard to 'working in partnership with WLBC to improve the local environment' and could also be an income opportunity for on-going advertisement.

Appendix: Factors for consideration:

- Available budget
- Bin density (e.g. how far do people have to walk to access a litter bin)
- Bin size
- Bin type
- Land ownership
- Location (*e.g. high priority areas as outlined in the policy*)
- Usage / demand
- Access (public and staff)
- Bins *creating* litter (whether due to capacity, misuse or location)
- Vandalism and arson
- Evaluation
- Parks and green spaces