

Committee(s): Environment, Enforcement & Housing Committee	Date: 13 December 2021
Subject: Litter Bin Review	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Greg Campbell, Corporate Director (Environment & Communities)	Public
Report Author/s: Name: Darren Laver, Corporate Manager (Street Scene) Telephone: 01277 312500 E-mail: darren.laver@brentwood.gov.uk	For Decision

Summary

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, nationally behaviours and lifestyles have changed considerably. This has had substantial influences on the environment and the amount of litter dropped and discarded or placed into litter bins. There has also been a significant increase in the number of dog owners, contributing to an increase in dog waste which can now be placed into normal waste litter bins.

It is therefore necessary to review our current provision of the litter service overall including litter bin locations and collection frequency. If we get this right, it will reduce any harmful effects this nuisance has on the environment overall.

Main Report

Introduction and Background

1. The service the Council provides is very comprehensive with over 500 litter bins across the borough that are emptied on varying frequencies from daily to once a week. Although there are concentrations of these bins there are also a number in the furthest reaches of the borough. Therefore, the spread of bins is wide and varied.
2. During the pandemic it become clear that many bins are being overused and others are not. The service has tried to adapt in order to react to the needs and the changing environment however it has come to a point where we need to take stock and consider alternative methods and approaches to litter if we are to maintain a positive service.
3. We also need to recognise that by providing a bin does not necessarily solve or reduce the issue. The more bins provided the more waste is deposited and the more the service is required to empty and keep on top of the issue.
4. This report outlines the options that are available to us to consider for the service and in so doing run pilots to determine the best direction.

5. These pilots include the relocation of underutilised bins, replacing the old small dog waste bins to the larger standard litter bins and the use of new technology that compacts the litter and communicates when the bin is full and requires emptying.
6. We have considered how we should approve locations of bins moving forward. We have seen from the location overview carried out that there are many locations where bins are near to each other. For example, there are three bins within approximately 50 metres of each other in Danes Way, Pilgrims Hatch.
7. Moving forward the Council need to agree a way of ensuring litter bins are placed in the most effective locations to reduce litter being dropped on the streets. There will be certain factors that need to be examined. Complaint's history, high footfall, local amenities, schools etc. We will also carry out trial periods of litter bin requests by placement of movable bins that can be placed at locations and easily moved if there is evidence that they have not improved the issue or contributed to making the situation worse. If it is evident that it has reduced littering, then a permanent bin will be installed.
8. Although litter bins provide a good system for reducing litter in problematic areas, we also have to appreciate that they are not always used by the general public in the manner they were intended. In some areas bins that are sited close to residential properties often become abused and are treated as a personal waste collection points for domestic waste. This not only causes the bins to be filled quickly preventing the intended use of the litter bin but also attracts more domestic waste from other households near the litter bins. Litter bins can also appear full if large items are placed in the bin and not compacted, like cardboard boxes and black bagged waste which is not typically conventional litter.
9. It is widely believed that waste attracts waste, and this has shown to be true more than ever through the pandemic as more people are taking exercise and spending time outside in the fresh air. This has caused certain litter bins to become over filled very quickly and a lot of waste discarded around these locations portraying a poor service from the authority.
10. Considering the above we have listed below the options we consider appropriate to improve the service provision and become more efficient in the way we deliver the service for the future.

Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

11. Review the current bin locations map. Relocate or remove bins from overpopulated bin placement locations. This will enable the Service to cover a

wider footprint by removal and relocation where necessary. Any relocation or removal to be undertaken in consultation with ward members.

12. Where bins are requested a trial bin is placed in situ to determine the impact and whether this fixture becomes permanent.
13. Introduce a trial of four solar litter bins that compact the waste and notify when full to reduce unnecessary journeys
14. Signage on bins to advise of collection day and to advise when bin is full to take waste home rather than leaving waste around the litter bin.
15. Work with licencing to request retailers take responsibility of bins outside their outlets by emptying them when full and presenting the waste for collection on the scheduled collection day of the litter bin
16. Dog bins to be replaced with larger litter bins as dog waste has been declassified and can now be placed into normal waste stream and to remove the older small size dog waste bins that are sited next to a current litter bin.

Consultation

17. None

References to Corporate Strategy

18. Protecting our Environment; Delivering an efficient and effective Council

Implications

Financial Implications

Name/Title: Phoebe Barnes, Corporate Manager – Finance

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19. For this financial year there is no budget, to purchase the solar litter bins. However, as part of the budget process for 2022-23 a growth bid has been received to purchase the solar bins for next financial year. This growth bid is subject to approval as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy report presented to Ordinary Council at February 2022 committee.
20. Subject to the growth bid being successfully approved and forming part of 2022-23 Capital programme, the trial will help inform if a future programme of replacing bins with solar bins are required.
21. The cost of removing existing bins will be captured within existing resources and should not warrant in additional budget pressures.

22. Once the review is complete this will inform any other financial impacts that will need to be considered against existing financial resources.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Amanda Julian, Corporate Director (Law & Governance) and Monitoring Officer

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23. The Council when entering into any trial that would require the entering into a contract must follow the Contract Standing Orders in the Constitution and procurement rules. If the cost is over £25,000 this must be advertised as a tender on the appropriate websites. The Public Contracts Regulations 2006 will need to be considered; it is not possible to disaggregate contracts to reduce the value of the procurement. The total anticipated spend on replacement bins would need to be considered when determining the contract value.
24. All contracts would need to have legal input as the matter processed.
25. Any consultation should be undertaken prior to the decision to implement a given scheme and any responses should be considered prior to making a decision.

Economic Implications

Name/Title: Phil Drane, Corporate Director (Planning & Economy)

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26. There are no direct economic implications. Any improvement in the environmental condition of the borough can have indirect economic benefits to attract businesses and visitors.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

None

Background Papers

None

Appendices to this report

None