

# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 16 JUNE 2022

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>LITTER BIN POLICY</b>			
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To recommend the adoption of a litter bin policy.			
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>The Committee RESOLVES to:</b>  <b>a. Approve the Litter Bin Policy for adoption.</b> <b>b. Delegate authority to the Community Services Manager to finalise any minor alterations to design and formatting.</b>			
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	Drafts have been shared with colleagues in our Customer Service and Environmental Health Teams and with Ubico via the Service Review Working Group.  Feedback and input has been sought and received from the Litter Free Group, via litter control volunteers.			
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<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A – Litter Bin Policy Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment			
<b>Implications (further details at the end of the report)</b>	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

### 1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Stroud District Council have a statutory duty to keep council owned land and public highways clear of litter.
- 1.2 To fulfil this duty the council engage Ubico to provide street cleansing services. This is made up of a mix of mechanical sweeping, litter picking and clearance, and the provision and servicing of litter and dog bins. Throughout the district around 1,400 bins are serviced on a regular basis.
- 1.3 Officers are frequently asked to install additional litter bin provision and whilst there is a keenness to accommodate, there is also a keenness to ensure that the limited resources at our disposal, are used in the most efficient way.
- 1.3 This report presents a new Litter Bin Policy, intended to be a transparent tool to assess both the need for new provision and the continued use of existing provision, where required.
- 1.4 The new policy is presented as Appendix A.

## **2. MAIN POINTS**

- 2.1 At present SDC do not have a publicly available document which details how litter bin provision will be applied. This contrasts with many Principal Litter Authorities, who have prepared and posted this information for residents to refer to.
- 2.2 The policy provides a robust framework for staff to apply in the course of their duties, avoiding discretionary decisions. Each request for an additional bin will be assessed.
- 2.3 A scoring mechanism is used to determine whether or not to proceed with provision. The scoring system accounts for contributory litter factors, such as the proximity to retail and the designated cleansing zone. It also factors in persistent litter problems in the preceding months.

## **3. ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION**

### **3.1 Dog Bins**

- 3.1.1 Currently litter bins are administered by the Multi Service Team (Community Services), with dog bins managed by the Environmental Health team. Whilst this has engendered good working relations between teams, it can be confusing for residents.
- 3.1.2 In writing this policy colleagues from Environmental Health and Community Services have agreed to amalgamate the provision of litter and dog bins, so that officers in the Multi Service Team control all bin related provision. This will stop any unnecessary duplication and will offer residents a clear contact point.
- 3.1.3 Whilst there has been a moratorium on the provision of dog bins since national guidance on separation changed, an estate of around 400 dog bins remain. Dog owners can also avail of standard litter bins. At the point of requiring replacement, each will be assessed in line with this policy and where there is a duplication of litter and dog bin provision, it is likely that this will be rationalised.

### **3.2 Businesses**

- 3.2.1 There has been some discussion with interested volunteers and at this committee, about engaging with retailers on litter related matters and specifically the expectation to work with SDC and harness responsibility as laid out in Defra's publication, A Voluntary Code of Practice for Local Partnerships. Whilst this has not been fully integrated in the policy, SDC are committed to this and have sent letters to national supermarkets and fast food/coffee chains within the district, detailing resources and further information. It is hoped that these chains will engage with SDC, so that they can better understand their obligations, better serve their communities and positively impact local litter issues.

### **3.3 Litter Bin Sponsorship**

- 3.3.1 From time to time local businesses contact SDC to enquire about litter bin sponsorship. This can be achieved in a number of ways but requires a financial contribution from the business, in exchange for advertising on the bin. After review of the potential operating models, at this time, the introduction of such a scheme is not being recommended.

Predominantly this is associated with the administrative burden, which is likely to outweigh any financial benefit.

- 3.3.2 Whilst it is recognised that there are potentially other benefits to be gleaned from bin sponsorship, there is no obvious resource capacity. Furthermore, our standard floor mounted litter bin is of round construction and is not particularly suitable for plaque fixing. As we roll out more recycling litter bins, the opportunities will increase and the suitability of introducing sponsorship will be regularly reviewed.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The new litter bin policy intends to formalise the methodology SDC use in determining the appropriateness of new and replacement provision. It gives transparent detail that is clear to staff and residents.
- 4.2 Should the new policy be approved, it will be brought in to use with immediate effect.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

##### **5.1 Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications within this report as it recommends to Committee adopt the bin policy. If the policy recommends the need for new bins this will have to be considered within the present budget.

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##### **5.2 Legal Implications**

There are no significant legal implications arising from this report.

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##### **5.3 Equality Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category, although section 3.7 of the policy highlights the considerations to be made. Notwithstanding this, an Equality Analysis has been undertaken by the report writer (Appendix B).

##### **5.4 Environmental Implications**

As there is little change to litter provision and this policy only serves to detail decision making processes, there are no significant implications within this category.