

Litter and Dog Bin Policy

Introduction

This policy sets out the principles which will be followed for the selection and installation of litter bins, reviewing existing litter bin sites, and ensuring that the correct bin type is used in the most appropriate locations. This policy will help to contribute towards the Council's strategies to tackle the problem of litter and cleanliness within the Borough.

Litter can be defined as waste which is disposed 'on the go' either in litter bins or discarded loosely in the environment or because of an accidental escape from a premise, domestic bin, etc.

Purpose of Policy

This policy will detail how the Council will deal with:

- 1.0 Emptying and maintaining existing bins
- 2.0 Auditing and replacing bins
- 3.0 Requests for new bins
- 4.0 Routes to Management of Assets
- 5.0 Potential income generation
- 6.0 Bin specifications

1.0 Emptying and Maintaining Existing Bins

All bins purchased by the Council will be maintained and emptied. Any additional bins will be emptied and maintained with the contractual agreement of the owner.

Bins will be emptied with a frequency that prevents bins overflowing. This will be based on location, frequency of use and seasonally increased footfall. This will include special events.

Bins will be monitored, and frequencies increased or decreased where needed.

All bins will be maintained to a standard that is fit for purpose and aesthetically pleasing and where financially viable.

Bins that are continuously vandalised will not be replaced and an alternative location will need to be found providing it fits into the outlined criteria.

Bins that have been installed and maintained by management companies and parish Councils will remain their responsibility.

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.

2.0 Auditing and Replacing Bins

The Council will aim to improve on efficient and effective uses of litter and dog bins across the borough by using an auditing system that fits into the aligned criteria. This will improve efficiencies in staffing and help to reduce the carbon footprint.

Annual assessment of bin types and locations will be carried out using the agreed criteria. If the assessment shows the bin is in a suitable location, then the bin will remain in situ. If the assessment shows the bin to be in an unsuitable location, then it will be removed or relocated with consultation with residents, officers, and Ward Councillors.

Continuous damage or vandalism to litter bin may result in the Council withdrawing or changing the litter bin.

High intensity footfall areas could be assessed to proactively look at specific types of bins. For example, the use of Smart technology and larger sized litter bins to reduce emptying and enable the use of recordable data to predict patterns of seasonal fluctuation.

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 data gathered throughout this process will be used to determine locations for the installation of bins to maximise their efficiency.

3.0 Request for New Bins

Any requests for a new or additional bin should be submitted by a Ward Councillor for where the bin is being requested.

New bin requests must be received in writing using a digital new bin request form. Bin requests could take up to **6 weeks** depending on land ownership and any licencing requests required.

All requests must determine why a bin is required. **This must include the following:**

- **A digitally pinned and mapped location for the bin including an alternative location**
- **Type of bin - dog, litter, recycling or smart**
- **Evidence to support the case for a new bin request from the community**
- **Evidence of support from fellow Ward Councillors**

Bins will only be installed on sites which are safe and where there is a genuine need for a bin. The Council will not install bins on private land or in a location which may encourage the disposal of trade waste. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes provision for the collection and disposal of commercial waste, and the Council expects businesses to provide and empty their own bins for the litter they create, including retail premises such as takeaways, kiosks etc.

Once a decision has been made by the Council regarding the outcome of a request for a bin, that decision will not be reviewed for a minimum of twelve months.

Following receipt of the request, officers will undertake an assessment. The following factors will be taken into consideration to determine whether a request will proceed:

- Prioritisations need
- Available budget
- Area bin density (e.g., how far do people have to walk to access a litter bin)
- Bin size
- Bin type
- Land ownership
- Usage / demand
- Access (public and staff)
- Bins creating litter (whether due to capacity, misuse, or location)
- Vandalism and arson

Prioritisations need

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:

1. Main arterial routes and other high footfall and through route areas
2. High Streets and main areas of commerce and retail
3. Key routes in relation to secondary schools (particularly pedestrian routes to local shops and community centres)
4. Proximity to fast food and takeaway retailers
5. Public transport hubs (e.g., Bus stops and similar areas) where large numbers of people stand for periods of time
6. Entrances to parks and significant public spaces

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 above
- 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.

Available budget

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.

Area bin density

Consideration will be given to the proximity of publicly accessible litter bins and the distance travelled between them.

Bin type and size

See Section 7.0 Bins Specification

Dual purpose bins

Dog bins are collected at the same time as litter bins and disposed of at the same collection point. This is therefore, no purpose to have two distinct types of bins. Using communications and litter bin window signage, dog owners are advised that dog waste can be deposited in litter bins therefore reducing the need for resource duplication via purpose-built dog bins.

Reviewing and auditing areas will identify where dog bins could be removed and potentially reinstated in other areas where dog walking is more prevalent and/or in locations where a dog bin is deemed more appropriate as the litter bin policy suggests.

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 proximity of the original dog waste bin.

In circumstances where a dog bin is removed following an audit, and in line with policy and specification, consideration will be made as to whether a litter bin may be required.

Recycling of Litter

Most litter that is deposited into bins could be recycled. The Council should consider high use areas such as town high streets and seasonal tourist locations.

It would be suggested that these units would be additional to litter bins rather than instead of. This method of disposal would have to be monitored and materials separated if contamination is identified, then recycled at the depot.

Recycling bins could reduce disposal cost and benefit the environment as well as generating recycling credits from the sale of recyclables.

Land ownership

Bins should preferably be installed on land where the Council is responsible. This includes streets, open spaces and play areas. If bins are more suited to a Essex Highways position, an application and approval process will need to be carried out for street furniture audit and license purposes.

Sites will need to consider whether there are any planning considerations.

See Section 4.0 Routes to Management of Asset

Usage/demand

Supporting evidence and onsite observations will determine the demand and need in the local area. Data will be captured over an agreed period to make an assessment.

Access and location

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

This policy will not suggest full member and public consultation for the installation of bins in general, but this should be suggested if bins are near houses or affect the nearby community ward areas, as additional bins will require on going resource. Consideration should be given to all requests using the required criteria.

Parks and other similar public spaces

The installation of litter bins within public parks, playgrounds and greenspaces presents 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 must walk, carrying bags. Consideration should be given to this for future litter bin installations.

Moving forward, consideration should be given, where appropriate, to 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

Bins creating litter

Onsite observations will determine the assessment of whether there is a likelihood of capacity or misuse of the bin and or bins. This will be determined somewhat by data and observations by any local bin locations or those in similar locations elsewhere in the Borough.

Vandalism and arson

Onsite observations will determine the assessment of whether there is a likelihood of vandalism or arson of the bin and or bins. This will be determined somewhat by data and observations by any local bin locations or those in similar locations elsewhere in the Borough.

4.0 Routes to Management of Assets

There are a number of options once the location of the bin has been determined for the management, maintenance and emptying of bins, as set out in diagram 1.



The Council will install bins that meet the criteria and the costs for each bin type as set out in Section 6.0 Bin Specifications

Wherever possible Officers will work with Councillors to source external funding to support the installations, this could include funding from a Parish or Town Council, or local business or organisation.

Any requests from Parish Councils, develops or businesses will be considered in line with this policy.

Any requests for Parish Councils or organisations to take on the ownership and emptying of bins will be considered and supported where this does not impact in additionality to the existing operational services.

Officers will work with the business community and in particular those in areas where it is known that their operations impact on the generation of waste in the local area.

5.0 Potential income generation

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 and could also be an income opportunity for on-going advertisement.

6.0 Bin specifications

This policy sets out to standardise the specification for all types of litter and street furniture installations across our Borough, to streamline operations, provide efficient assets, and futureproof service delivery alongside the ever-changing dynamics and behaviours of communities.

The Council will apply bins of the following specification only across the Borough and will set to review current bin infrastructure in line with these specifications, when looking to replace bins that are at the end of useful life and after an assessment that determines the need.

A - Jubilee Range of 240ltr, 110ltr or 70ltr Litter and Recycling Bins



The Jubilee range of 240, 110 or 70 litre litter and recycling bins with advertising windows for comms, gold 'litter/dog' wording on the sides and apertures for waste and/or recycling at the top of the bins will be considered in all locations in the first instance.

In exceptional circumstances some locations, due to high or seasonal footfall, may require a larger capacity 240ltr unit which houses a wheeled bin.

These types of bins should have an operational life of 10 years.

Further exceptions to the Jubilee range are set out below.

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cost per bin: | Install £36 |
| | 240 litre bin £1090.00 |
| | 110 litre bin £602.00 |
| | 70 litre bin £545.00 |

B - Cast Iron (Heritage) 115ltr Litter Bin



To adhere to English Heritage requirements, within the roman walls, conservation area, the cast iron (Heritage) 115 litre litter bin with 2 apertures at the top with gold trim and CBC coat of arms on the sides of the bin will be located. Jubilee recycling bins also feature within the walls of the town centre to influence and change behaviours.

These types of bins should have an operational life of at least 15 years

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Cost per bin: | Install £36 |
| | 115 litre bin £972.00 |

C – Solar (Smart) 110ltr Litter Bin



Officers will explore the use of Solar (Smart) 110ltr litter bins with compactor facility, smart digital technology that can alert operatives when it is near capacity at appropriate locations. It has one smaller waste aperture at the top of the bin to reduce bin misuse and one cigarette aperture to the side. This option saves resource due to its compacting and smart features.

These types of bins should have an operational life of 10 years.

Cost per bin: Install £36

110 litre bin £3,800

Revenue cost: £92/month

D - Plastic (Retriever) 50ltr Dog Litter Bin



The Plastic (Retriever) 50ltr dog bins will be located only areas, in and around entrances or exits to dog walking areas, open spaces, park and countryside sites.

In all other locations where a dog litter bin has been requested, consideration will be given to a Jubilee range bin, as having both placed on site duplicates work, increases pressure on resource and adds cost to the service with no actual benefit or difference to the waste depositing process in the community.

These types of bins should have an operational life of 3 years.

Cost per bin: Install £36

50 litre bin £346.00