

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Service Delivery Committee | Tuesday, 07 September 2021

1. Complaints have been received about waste and recycling bins being left on the street for long periods of time.

What action can the Council take to rectify the situation?

The Authority has powers to fine individuals for leaving waste receptacles presented outside appointed collection periods. We have a measured and balanced approach to avoid householders being penalised for minor breaches of rules. Therefore it is good practice to try and inform householders about any issues on the presentation of their waste bins in the first instance. If continual problems arise then a fixed penalty notice can be issued if the problems that occur cause (or are likely) to cause a nuisance or have a detrimental effect on local amenities for example causing an obstruction, restricting access to a pavement/street or are likely to attract vermin.

2. Residents are concerned about the number of shopping trolley's from supermarkets left around the Borough.

What action can the Council take to resolve the problem?

Enforcement powers are only available to the Council if it formally adopts Schedule 4 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. There is no previous resolution to suggest these powers have been formally adopted by the Council. The procedure for adoption is protracted and involves a number of steps summarised below:

- Consultation with the persons or representatives of persons who may be affected by the adoption of the schedule (i.e. local supermarkets, their head offices, other outlets which use trolleys etc.)

- Seek the views of other agencies (i.e. British Retail Consortium, Chambers of Commerce, Association of Town Centre Management, Association of Convenience Stores etc.).
- Make the resolution to adopt the Schedule (i.e. report to Licensing and Regulatory Committee and/or Full Council)
- As part of the report, Committee/Council need to agree a charging structure* and arrangements for implementation of a trolley retrieval service;
- Advertise the Council's intentions to adopt the Schedule in the local press; and
- Implement the Schedule after a period of three months from the date of resolution.

* Under paragraph 4 of Schedule 4, any charges must be fixed at a level sufficient taking one financial year with another, to cover the cost of removing, storing and disposing of trolleys.

Given the relatively low number of complaints we receive and the length of time to adopt these powers Officers continue to work with supermarkets to improve the situation. Trolleys left in public places are often collected by the Council, reported to the relevant store and then disposed of.

3. The Council recently received money for new litter bins.

How many and where will they be sited? Will they be replacements or new sites?

If they are being sited in shopping centres what size and shape will the bins be?

The Council received £21,728.80 from the WRAP 'Litter Binrastructure Grant Scheme'. The Council had to specify the type and quantity of bins they wished to applying for grant funding for and this is:

- 15 x 120 litre floor mounted bins to replace 15 small capacity post mounted bins – to be installed near to schools and in the town centres.
- 10 x floor mounted double capacity bins (2 x 120 litres) to replace 10 x single capacity (120 litre) bins
- 20 x wide aperture litter bins in new locations where there is council car parks or council owned land near to take away premises to reduce amount of litter thrown from vehicles.

WRAP has agreed that the existing post mounted and 120 litre bins removed to make way for larger bins can, assuming they are still fit for purpose, be re-installed at new locations.

Where bins are installed into areas of the town centres that have been re-furbished then bins will be silver / stainless steel to match the existing street furniture and the design will take into consideration the issues with the existing bins which are difficult to put large items of rubbish into (notably pizza boxes).

The spend against this project has been delayed due to other work but will be taken forward by the Assistant Corporate Asset Manager when they take up their post. The locations for the new/replacement bins is yet to be decided but will be agreed in conjunction with the Clean and Green Team so that any litter hotspots are addressed.

The above questions were duly received by the Head of Law & Democracy on 19 August 2021 in accordance with Rule 13, Section 1 of Part 4 of the Constitution of the Council.