



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10 May 2022

Report of: Councillor Mark Whittington, Cabinet Member for Waste and Climate Change



Draft Policy for the Provision of Litter Bins

This report presents a draft policy which sets out the Council's approach and the principles which will be followed in selecting and reviewing sites for the provision of litter bins across the district.

Report Author

Anne-Marie Coulthard, Assistant Director for Operations and Public Protection



01476 406319



a.coulthard@southkesteven.gov.uk

| Corporate Priority: | Decision type: | Wards: |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| A Clean and Sustainable Environment | Administrative | All Wards |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------|
| Reviewed by: | Clova Townhill, Waste Team Manager | 14 April 2022 |
| Approved by: | Alan Robinson, Deputy Chief Executive | 19 April 2022 |
| Signed off by: | Councillor Mark Whittington, Cabinet Member for Waste and Climate Change | 21 April 2022 |

Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

1. Considers the draft Policy for the Provision of Litter Bins and agrees it, with or without amendments.
2. Recommends to Cabinet that the draft policy is suitable for adoption.

1 The Background to the Report

- 1.1 Councils are not obliged to provide litter bins, however, once installed, the frequency of emptying must be sufficient to ensure that litter does not overflow and become a nuisance. The procurement, siting, fixing, and ongoing emptying and maintenance of litter bins is a cost to the Council, therefore, ensuring litter bins are appropriately located supports value for money and enables resources to be focused where they are most needed.
- 1.2 An audit of litter bins across the district has been undertaken to establish an up-to-date record of their condition and assess the effectiveness of the existing provision. A total of 608 litter bins have been recorded.
- 1.3 Historically, the provision and siting of litter bins across the district has been in response to requests from the public or elected members without any structured review to ensure there is a genuine and continuing need.
- 1.4 To support a consistent approach to future litter bin provision, a draft policy for the provision of litter bins has been developed (“the policy”) and is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.5 The policy seeks to clarify responsibilities where Parish or Town Councils have provided litter bins and details how requests for new litter bins will be dealt with. It also suggests criteria which would generally be taken into consideration when determining site location and gives an indication of areas which would not normally be considered a priority. The prioritisation has been developed with regard to the “litter zones” as set out in the DEFRA Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.
- 1.6 While it is not proposed that any of the existing litter bins would automatically be removed as a result of the policy, where requests for additional or replacement bins are received, or damaged bins are noted, the policy will be applied. Consideration would be given to moving existing under-utilised bins in the same area in the first instance.

2 Consultation and Feedback Received, Including Overview and Scrutiny

- 2.1 There is no statutory requirement to adopt a policy relating the provision of litter bins or consult on its contents.

3 Available Options Considered

- 3.1 The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee may consider that it is not necessary to adopt a policy and litter bins could continue to be provided as currently. Alternatively, the Committee could consider that a policy is desirable and provide comments.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 The adoption of a policy helps to support consistent and transparent decision making. Ensuring that litter bins are located in areas where it can be demonstrated that there is a genuine need.

5 Reasons for the Recommendation (s)

- 5.1 There is a balance between the number and locations of litter bins provided and the ongoing cost of emptying and maintaining them. Ensuring litter bins are appropriately located supports value for money and enables resources to be focused where they are most needed.

6 Next Steps – Communication and Implementation of the Decision

- 6.1 Subject to any comments from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the draft policy will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The budget for the provision of litter bins is approved annually by Council as part of the budget setting process. There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report, however, a policy would support value for money principles in ensuring efficiency and effectiveness.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Alison Hall-Wright, Assistant Director of Finance

8 Legal and Governance Implications

- 8.1 The Council is not required to provide litter bins or publish a policy on their deployment. However, the adoption of a policy ensures a transparent and consistent approach is applied.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Mandy Braithwaite, Legal Executive

9 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

- 9.1 An initial equality impact assessment has been undertaken and at Appendix 2. No significant adverse impacts were identified.

10 Risk and Mitigation

- 10.1 No significant risks have been identified.

11 Community Safety Implications

- 11.1 The presence of litter creates a negative impact on the local environment. The provision of litter bins in appropriate locations helps people to dispose of their litter responsibly.

12 How will the recommendations support South Kesteven District Council's declaration of a climate emergency?

- 12.1 The standards defined in the draft policy support the efficiency of the Street Cleansing fleet, ensuring it can be optimised to reduce the number of vehicle journeys, further reducing the council's carbon footprint.

13 Other Implications (where significant)

- 13.1 No other significant implications have been identified.

14 Background Papers

- 14.1 None.

15 Appendices

- 15.1 Appendix 1 – Draft Policy on the Provision of Litter Bins
15.2 Appendix 2 – Initial Equality Impact Assessment