

Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda
Item:
A.2(b)

Meeting Date: 27th November 2014
Portfolio: Environment and Transport
Key Decision: No
Within Policy and
Budget Framework NO
Public / Private Public

Title: LITTER BIN TASK AND FINISH GROUP
Report of: Chair of Task Group
Report Number: 30/14

Purpose / Summary:

This report summaries the work undertaken by the Litter Bin Task and Finish Group to date in order to update Panel Members on the issues arising.

Recommendations:

1. Members of the Panel are requested to consider the Task Groups evidence and suggest further enquiries they would wish to see the group follow.

Tracking

Executive:	
Overview and Scrutiny:	27th November 2014
Council:	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Following a request from the Neighbourhood Services Manager, the Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel agreed to commission a Task and Finish Group to work alongside the Litter Bin Review at their meeting on 3rd July 2014.
- 1.2 The purpose of the group was to assist officers in the litter bin review. The group would complement, not duplicate, this work in order to assist in the evaluation of information collated on street bins to give a view from a Member perspective and to provide Member support in the project.
- 1.3 Councillors, Dodd, Nedved and Wilson were appointed to the Task Group. Councillor Bloxham joined the group in September and replaced Councillor Dodd as lead Member for the work.
- 1.4 The group held their first meeting on 24th July 2014 and agreed their Terms of Reference as follows:
 - To gather evidence on the number, location, type and usage of public litter bins in the District.
 - To consider the resources available and whether they are maximised.
 - To look at best practice and new technology in the field.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The review of litter bins within the wards of Carlisle initially started in 2011, whereby each litter bin already in location was accurately mapped and logged according to each ward within Carlisle.
- 2.2 There are a total of 684 bins throughout the borough, and each of these bins has been spread throughout the city. There is no evidence to suggest that the location of each bin evolved as part of predetermined criteria according to litter, usage or location. Historically litter bins were installed at the request and needs of the local wards as identified by the elected councillor in conjunction with agreement of officers.
- 2.3 In 2011 a decision was made by the Director of Local Environment that the replacement of litter bins would be controlled in a manner that prevented any additions to the number of bins within the council without due course and would only be done so as part of a replacement policy of old and ill repair bins, or if a location within a ward was identified by a councillor, then that location would be considered if another underused bin within the ward could be used as a replacement.
- 2.4 The main evidence for the review would be mapping the locations of all of the street litter bins within wards looking to see whether they are located correctly according to footfall, litter accumulation as well as other criteria. This would include an exercise to determine the use (and misuse) of litter bins

- 2.5 The work would also include the various design of litter bins and also look at new technology in the field (ie solar power compressor bins).

Meetings of the Task Group have been held on the following dates:

24th July 2014 Scope review and determine Terms of Reference

The Task Group was due to meet again on 13th August 2014 to look at the mapping exercise, however due to a change in staffing and problems in collating the audit data the information was not available and the meeting therefore postponed.

4th September 2014 Big Belly Demonstration followed by Task Group meeting with Local Environment staff to look at the results of the audit of litter bins.

7th October 2014 Cllr Nedved joined street cleaning round

8th October 2014 Cllr Bloxham joined street cleaning round

9th October 2014 Cllr Wilson joined street cleaning round

16th October 2014 Task Group meeting to discuss their experience on the rounds and issues arising. Further information provided to group on update on actions following the Audit, update on Big Belly pilot, information on enforcements and complaints relating to litter bins.

The Group were awaiting the feedback from an event hosted by Big Belly Smartbin on 13th November, however this has not been postponed until early next year and therefore the Task Group agreed that they would provide the Panel with an interim report.

3 INTERIM FINDINGS

- 3.1 The full support evidence will be included within the Task Groups final report. However the following summarises the groups findings so far and the Panel are requested to suggest further lines of enquiry they wish the group to follow.

Audit of Litter Bins

- 3.2 A full audit of litter bins in the District has been undertaken with the assistance of the Street Cleaning Team. Operatives have mapped and detailed the condition of every bin in the area, many of which required maintenance or replacement. This work is ongoing by officers and the Task Group have been updated of progress. Task Group Members suggested to Officers that Ward Members are contacted to request that they give consideration to using some of their Small Scale Budget to assist in the financial burden in replacing bins.

- 3.3 Members were informed at the start of this work that Officers would look to change locations according to footfall and/or litter need if required. Several bins have been identified as having little or no litter use and therefore have been, or will be removed.
- 3.4 Members are not aware of whether the Council has a prescriptive Litter Bin policy which details the aims of the police, the types of bins available for waste including recycling, where the bins are or should be located, what the criteria and implications of issuing new bins (including within new developments) and the process for maintenance and replacement of existing bins.
- 3.5 The Audit also detailed the amount of litter in each bin and whether there was evidence of trade, household or garden waste. The full evaluation will be included in the Task Group's final report but Members are concerned about the amount of misuse by businesses and the public and this will be an issue which the group need to give further consideration.

Shadowing of Street Cleaning Round

- 3.6 Each of the Councillors on the Task Group joined the operatives for a morning on their rounds. Both urban and rural areas were covered. The following observations and concerns were noted:
- The amount of damaged bins, for example doors that would not shut leading to litter falling outside of liners.
 - Obvious household waste placed in public bins
 - Unnecessary close siting of bins, for example two bins in Longtown at either side of a bench.

Big Belly Pilot

- 3.7 Members were informed that there were solar smart bins available on the market which compressed litter and also would generate an email to the Council when the bin's capacity reached 85%. The bins would therefore hold much more litter and operators would not make unnecessary trips to bins which did not require emptying.
- 3.8 A month pilot was arranged and three Big Belly Solar Bins were placed in the city centre – one at the Civic Centre, one in Scotch Street outside Mothercare and one in the Crescent. The full information on the pilot will be contained in the final report, however it is evident that less collections were needed during the pilot period. It is unfortunately difficult for the Council to quantify what, if any, savings the bins would generate as emptying the public bins are only one task for the Street Operatives. More work needs to be undertaken on this and will be included in the final report alongside evidence from other Authorities who have installed this type of bin.

4 CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 This report is to update Members of the Environment & Economy O&S Panel of work undertaken to date by the Task Group.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

5.1 The review will complement the priority within the Carlisle Plan – Together we will make Carlisle clean and tidy.

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**Appendices
attached to report:**

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- **None**