Minor Waste Policies PDG –Litter bin policy

1. Introduction

The Council has no legal duty to provide litter and dog waste bins but it does have a duty to keep Council owned land and public highways clear of litter and refuse as far as is practicable. Since changes to the classification of wastes, dog waste can be put into litter bins, and disposed of in the same way.

Bins are traditionally provided maintained and emptied as a means of controlling litter or dog waste problems. There are approximately 600 bins in varying condition across the Borough with a capital cost in the region of £100,000 excluding the cost of fixings or earth anchors.

Whilst the Council is committed to providing sufficient bins to help discharge its responsibilities under the Environmental Act 1990, bins will only be located in areas where it can be demonstrated that there is a genuine need for one. All locations must be agreed by both the local Town and Parish Councils and the Council’s Waste and Enforcement Service.

2. Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to detail how the Council will:

• Deal with requests for new bins
• Empty & maintain existing bins
• Replace existing bins

3. Requests for New Bins

All requests for new bins must be received in writing from either Town or Parish Councils. The request must demonstrate why there is the need for a bin and include:

• Plan of the proposed location for the bin
• A draft risk assessment identifying any hazards that the placement of a bin may cause to members of the public or CBC staff

Due to the costs of installing, maintaining and emptying bins, all requests for new bins will be assessed by the Council using the following process:

3.1. Site survey:

A site survey, will be carried out by a member of the Waste and Enforcement team which will consider the following criteria:
• Suitability of the proposed location - Taking account of the need to reduce street clutter, particularly in more sensitive locations such as Conservation Areas or public realm spaces.

• Scale of the litter, dog waste problem. Will a bin make a real impact on litter or can this be addressed in other ways e.g. by enforcement.

• Proximity to potential problem points- Is the proposed site close to shops, schools, bus stops etc.

• Number and location of existing bins in the area. – In shopping areas the distance between bins should be not less than 50 metres.

• Accessibility to disabled people - in terms of the bin and ensuring the bin itself is not a hazard or barrier for pedestrians including prams and wheelchairs.

• Cost of installation.- Is a ground anchor system required or any specific permissions that will impact on cost or practicality?

• Costs for emptying the bin e.g. those in more remote areas can have disproportionate transport costs.

• The possibility of valid objections from neighbours – would the bin encourage litter problems?

3.2. Alternative arrangements:

Possible alternatives, will be considered including:

• Changing the size/ type of existing bins in the area (e.g. dog bin to litter bin)

• Moving an existing under-used bin to/ from a different location.

• Seasonality – is there a seasonal issue for example litter bins at beaches for the summer only

Bins will only be installed on sites which are safe and where there is a genuine need for a bin. We 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, fish & chip shops etc.

4. Emptying and Maintaining Bins

Only those bins purchased and installed by the Council will be maintained and emptied or where a specific formal agreement has been made with the owner. Bins will be emptied on such a frequency that will prevent them overflowing. This will be based on their location and related to the intensity of use. The frequency will also vary according to the time of year and for special events. Monitoring will ensure that these frequencies are sufficient.
All bins will be maintained to a standard that is fit for purpose e.g. plastic bins can suffer damage in some locations while metal bins corrode quickly on the coast. When a bin is damaged or stolen, it will be replaced only if it meets the criteria above for new bins. Also any bins that have suffered vandalism on more than one occasion will not be replaced.

5. Replacing Existing Bins

The Council will aim to improve the effectiveness of individual bins through a rationalisation program of removal and replacement, using larger capacity bins where required or combining separate dog and litter bins into one. In support of the Council’s recycling aims we will also look at opportunities for locating combined litter and recycling bins where these would be most appropriate. We will continually monitor the usage of bins to determine their viability. Bins that are not used or used only infrequently may be removed. Relevant Town and Parish councils will be notified when bins are vandalised and will be given the opportunity to replace bins the Council decides not to (ie in the case of vandalism where a replacement has been vandalised).
New Litter/ Dog Bin Assessment Form

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<th>Litter bin assessment</th>
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<td>Bin Requested By</td>
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<td>Location of the Bin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk Assessment</td>
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<td>Suitability of Location</td>
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<td>Scale of Litter Problem</td>
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Arrangements Approved or Rejected .................................................................

Assessment Completed By .................................................................

Date .............................................................................................................