



Berwick upon Tweed Town Council

Local Services Committee

03 August 2021

Appendix B

Report of Town Clerk

Provision of Bins

Access Public

Background

1. Since May 2021 a number of requests have been received from elected members about the provision of new litter bins.
2. Currently the provision of new bins is the subject of a committee recommendation to council. There is no process to identify whether a new bin is required.
3. Neither is there any process in place which can measure the amount of, or impact of, waste in any given area. The result of these two issues is that council cannot provide any deeper rationale for any siting decision in relation to a litter bin than that council decided to put a bin in a given location.
4. There are two principal sources of the litter likely to be found in council bins; dog walking, and the retailing of food and beverages to be consumed in public spaces.
5. The resources available to either provide or empty bins are finite, and council cannot approve every request without being aware of the limits to its spending, and the capacity of Northumberland County Council to empty bins.
6. Similarly, council should also be aware of the aesthetic impact of bins, and of the need to pursue strategies to reduce the amount of waste generated in public spaces each year. It is also arguable that the presence of large groups of bins is an impediment to movement.
7. Officers are currently trying to measure the effectiveness of the current bin emptying strategy by encouraging the public to report when bins are full.
8. Officers are also pursuing a strategy of seeking to map the locations of bins and to correlate those locations to the presence of waste producing businesses, such as fast food outlets. It is the view of officers that the current arrangements, where bins are placed close to such outlets, do nothing to encourage such premises to produce less waste, and place no emphasis on recycling waste. A policy decision by council would be required to change current practice, and such a decision would require evidence – hence the work being undertaken by officers.

Recommendation

1. That councillors support the research being undertaken by officers.

Author	GD	Town Clerk sign off (if required)	GD
Checked by	SC	Finance Officer sign off (if required)	N/A