

 Executive meeting – 27th June 2018		Agenda Item No. <h1 style="text-align: center;">5</h1>
Title	Increased Litter Bin Provision	
For further information about this report please contact	Gary Charlton Contract Services Manager gary.charlton@warwickdc.gov.uk 01926456315	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	N/A	
Background Papers	None	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	Yes
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	06.06.18	Bill Hunt
Head of Service	06.06.18	Rob Hoof
CMT	06.06.18	Chris Elliott
Section 151 Officer	06.06.18	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	06.06.18	Andy Jones
Finance	06.06.18	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	8.06.18	Councillor Moira-Ann Grainger
Consultation & Community Engagement		
None, but some locations will require additional engagement with residents and local stakeholders.		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. Summary

- 1.1) The total number of Litter bins and their collection frequency has not increased since the start of the Contract in 2013. There are now a range of issues from overflowing litter bins to damaged or removed bins which are generating continued complaints from the public. A condition survey of the litter bins in 2017 estimated that circa 100 bins are in need of immediate replacement due to damage or age.
- 1.2) Within the existing Street Cleansing contract there is no availability to increase collections without additional resource and cost. Officers propose to increase litter bin collections by 150 to 200 per day until the end of the contract in 2021.
- 1.3) There are 75 additional litter bins to be installed in locations across the District to increase the capacity in locations which suffer from continued overflowing bins. A further 60 damaged bins or missing bins from the condition survey are to be replaced.
- 1.4) During the summer month's there is a substantial increase in the volume of litter and waste created in the Districts destination parks and gardens due to the District having award winning parks. To maintain the destination parks cleanliness to a good standard, an additional parks team and seasonal barrowman is needed to support the emptying of bins and litter picking operations.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Executive agree an additional a team of two operatives working 7 days per week including the lease hire of the vehicle at £98k per annum and to increase the existing emptying frequency by circa 50 bins per day at £10k per annum. Both to be implemented as soon as possible, until 31 March 2021, with these costs funded from the Business Rate Retention Volatility Reserve.
- 2.2. The Executive agree revenue cost for a seasonal mobile cleansing team to work in the parks 7 days per week for 5 months from May including the lease hire of the vehicle at £47k and two seasonal cleansing operatives working on-site for 7 days a week for 12 week period during the summer at £19k per annum. With these costs included in the Budget/Medium Term Financial Strategy, initially funded from the BRRVR, and increased savings to be found by the Council in future years.
- 2.3. The Executive agree to replace 60 damaged or removed litter bins at £16.5k and to purchase and install 75 additional litter bins to increase litter bin capacity is £21k, with these costs included within the Capital Budget, funded from the Capital Investment Reserve.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation

- 3.1 Litter, litter bin emptying and the general condition of the street scene is under constant scrutiny by the public and media. In recent months Neighbourhood Services has received a number of complaints and queries from councillors and residents regarding the number of litter bins in situ and their emptying frequency. These issues range from overflowing litter bins to damaged or removed bins. Increasing existing litter bin collection frequencies will be a positive message to the public and can be given good levels of publicity to support the Councils commitment to a cleaner environment.

- 3.2 Clean Up Britain, a national environmental behaviour change organisation have launched the Now or Never campaign in Leamington Spa. They have described using Leamington as a "live test-bed unit to research, identify and experiment with new ideas aimed at persuading people to stop dropping litter. There is now an increased focus in using litter bins which will lead to bins becoming fuller quicker.
- 3.3 The District's population has already increased in size since the tendered contract was awarded in 2013 and with that increase forecast to continue, the contract has no scope to increase emptying frequencies without more investment into the service.
- 3.4 Warwick District Councils parks and gardens are of high quality and receive large numbers of visitors each year. To maintain the cleanliness of the areas during the peak visitor season additional resources are required. The provision of a 2nd Parks team and seasonal barrowmen provide the best value solution to maintaining the cleansing standard.

4. Policy Framework

4.1 Fit for the Future (FFF)

The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels
Impacts of Proposal		
Increasing litter bin collections offers a positive message in respect of a cleaner community.	Supports the Council's commitment to a cleaner environment.	A high quality public environment contributes to the local economy especially tourism and our town centres.

Internal		
Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money
Impacts of Proposal		
None.	Reducing customer complaints by addressing customer concerns of insufficient litter bin collections.	It may be possible to reduce the cost of this additional work as part of the contract re-let in 2021.

4.2 Supporting Strategies

Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and seeks to support the Clean element of the Green, Clean Safe strategy by delivering a reasonable level of cleanliness across the district through the Street Cleansing Contract.

4.3 Changes to Existing Policies

This report does not seek to change policy.

5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1. Within the existing Street Cleansing or Contract Services budgets there are no available funds to pay for this additional service improvement. Officers propose for the cost of these additional activities being included in the current year Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which are discussed in more detail in the separate Fit For the Future report.
- 5.2. The revenue cost to supply a team of two operatives working 7 days per week including the lease hire of the vehicle, is £98k per annum. The revenue cost to empty circa 50 additional capacity bins per day is £10k per annum. These costs have been included within Budget and MTFS up to March 2021 and are proposed to be funded from the Business Rate Retention Volatility Reserve. The impact of the additional collections will be assessed at the end of this financial year and if the service improvements are found to be good value further funding options can be assessed. In addition, consideration could be given for the activities to be included into the new contract as a permanent option. It may be possible for an element of these costs to be absorbed within a new contract, but there can be no certainty about this.
- 5.3. The revenue cost for a seasonal mobile cleansing team to work in the parks 7 days per week for 5 months from May including the lease hire of the vehicle is

£47k. Two seasonal cleansing operatives working on-site for 7 days a week for 12 week period during the summer is £19k per annum. These costs have been included within Budget and MTFS on a recurring basis. In the short/medium term, these as are again proposed to be funded from the Business Rate Retention Volatility Reserve, but in the long term this increases the savings level still to be found by the Council.

- 5.4. The capital cost to replace 60 damaged or removed litter bins and install new litter bins would be £16.5k. The capital cost to purchase and install 75 additional bins to increase litter bin capacity is £21k. The total cost of £37.5k can be included within the Capital Budget, funded from the Capital Investment Reserve (unallocated balance of circa £1m).

6. Risks

- 6.1. Increasing litter bin capacity could increase the amount of household waste being deposited at certain locations resulting in no net benefit to the provision offered.
- 6.2. Increased litter bin numbers creates a larger capital burden in future years when bins need replacing.
- 6.3. Not increasing the capacity or collection frequencies of the litter bins will fuel a negative opinion of the cleanliness of the District and complaints may escalate.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

- 7.1 This report is requesting additional funding for service improvements. The alternative option would be to not proceed with recommendation or to only recommend selected items.

8. Background

- 8.1 The emptying of the Councils litter bins is contracted to VEOLIA, the elements of the street cleansing contract such as Highway Cleansing and bin emptying are completed in a 40 day schedule and utilise 20 specialist open caged vehicles. The litter bins are emptied daily across the District in set geographical areas based upon their emptying cycle such as daily, weekly or monthly. The table below sets out the total number of litter bins and the emptying frequencies across the Districts parks and town/residential areas.

Park Frequencies	Number	Town Frequencies	Number
Daily	129	Daily	259
Weekly	76	Weekly	451
2 times per week	29	2 times per week	23
3 times per week	3	3 times per week	64
Monthly	14	5 times per week	2
Total Park Bins	251	Total Town Bins	799

- 8.2 In recent months the Council has received a number of complaints and queries from councillors and residents regarding the number of litter bins in situ and their emptying frequency. These issues range from overflowing litter bins to damaged or removed bins. During 2017 a condition survey was undertaken of the litter bins, their locations and their state of repair. Due to damage or age

there are circa 100 bins that are in need of immediate replacement. 20 of these bins are scheduled to be replaced before the end of May 2018 but there is only budget remaining to replace a further 20 this financial year.

- 8.3 There is presently circa 540 litter bins emptied on a daily basis and these collections are mixed in with other street/park cleansing tasks. Due to the nature of how the contractor set up the delivery of these tasks, there is limited scope to increase the number of litter bin collections without adding staff and vehicles to the contract.
- 8.4 The contractor has confirmed that they would need to source an additional vehicle and two extra staff to increase litter bin collections by any noticeable number. The additional vehicle would be dedicated to litter bin emptying and could provide an additional litter bin collections of between 150 to 200 per day. The number has a wide variant due to location of the bins as travel time between locations is the main factor in how many can be emptied in any one day.
- 8.5 In conjunction with the additional vehicle there is the option to increase the number of litter bins in high use areas/high yield areas. There are circa 75 locations that would benefit from increased capacity by either a larger litter bin or a second bin.
- 8.6 There is a substantial increase in visitor numbers during the summer month's due to the District having award winning parks which increases the volume of litter and waste across the Districts parks. To support the emptying of bins and litter picking operations last year in our parks we introduced an additional parks team. This operates for 5 months from the start of May to coincide with the Bank Holidays through to the end of September.
- 8.7 In conjunction with the parks team last year we introduced two seasonal cleansing operatives working on-site for 7 days a week in Jephson Gardens/Pump Room Gardens and St Nicholas Park for a 12 week period before and after the 7 week school holidays. This on-site presence helps with maintaining litter and emptying the litter bins around the high footfall areas.
- 8.8 Rural locations for bin emptying are time consuming and the current frequency for these collections is set to maximise fuel economy and load capacity for the contractor. Rather than increase the number of journeys by increasing the emptying frequency, rural areas would benefit from increased litter bin capacity in known hot spot areas. In addition to this, consultation with the Parish and Town Councils will seek to establish if bin locations are still relevant, or needed, in new locations. There will be a limit to the additional capacity available but this detail will be worked through with each Parish or Town Council.