

Waste and Cleansing Policies: Litter Bin Siting Policy

Implementation date: 17 May 2018

Control schedule

Approved by	Transport and Environment Committee
Approval date	17 May 2018
Senior Responsible Officer	Andy Williams, Waste and Cleansing Manager
Author	Angus Murdoch, Technical Coordinator
Scheduled for review	Annually, or as required

Version control

Version	Date	Author	Comment
1.0	7 June 2018	Angus Murdoch	Final

Committee decisions affecting this policy

Date	Committee	Link to report	Link to minute
17 May 2018	Transport and Environment	Policy Assurance	Minute

Litter Bin Siting Policy

Policy statement

- 1.1 The policy was approved as part of the Waste and Cleansing Service's Policy Assurance at Transport and Environment Committee on 17 May 2018.

Scope

- 2.1 The policy sets out the principles which will be followed in selecting and siting litter bins in future, reviewing existing litter bin sites, and ensuring that the correct bin types are used in the most appropriate locations.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 outlines the factors which need to be taken into consideration when determining the siting of litter bins.

Definitions

- 3.1 Litter is waste which is disposed of "on the go" either in a bin or other receptacle provided for that purpose, discarded loose in the environment or as a result of an accidental escape from a premises, bin, etc.
- 3.2 For the purposes of this policy litter is generally distinct from household waste and from commercial waste.
- 3.3 It should be noted however that there is some overlap. Waste materials which are spilled from a household or commercial waste collection or illegally disposed of by a business will enter the environment as litter.
- 3.4 Conversely residents can legitimately use communal waste and recycling bins sited on the street to dispose of litter (if they put the correct materials in the correct bin).

Policy content

- 4.1 This policy is designed to outline the principles which will be followed in:
 - selecting and reviewing where litter bins are located across the city;
 - inform decision making for future litter bin sites, and to;

- assist with decision making around existing litter bin sites with the ultimate objective of locating the correct size and type of right bins in the right place, reflecting demand.
- 4.2 The Council's capacity to provide litter bins is finite. It is likely that the demand for litter bins will, at certain times or locations, exceed the capacity to provide the service.
- 4.3 It is expected that the criteria outlined in the policy should assist with managing litter bin provision. In addition, no review process currently exists to ensure that litter bin locations continue to match the expectation when it was sited, taking into account changes to usage patterns, and external factors such as vandalism, etc.
- 4.4 A range of bin types may be deployed across the city taking into account the following:
- Available litter bin stocks;
 - Size of litter bin versus usage and demand;
 - Type of location.
- 4.5 It is intended that future litter bin sites will be selected by using guiding principles. These will include (but are not restricted to):
- Operational efficiency;
 - Usage patterns;
 - Health and safety considerations associated with the servicing of the litter bins
 - Links to other policies, e.g. planning and streetscape issues including in particular Edinburgh Street Design Guidance.
- 4.6 The type, size and location of litter bins are all linked to how litter bins are used by the public, and in particular how frequently they require to be emptied, and how much litter is collected. These are the key determinants which need to be matched to service delivery and flexibility in terms of servicing frequency and the ability to route services effectively and efficiently.

Usage and efficiency

- 4.7 Changes to the ways in which litter bins are managed will be governed by two factors: how they are used by the public, and how efficiently they can be serviced.
- 4.8 The use of routing software, coupled with resident feedback and potentially litter bin sensors will help to improve the efficiency and responsiveness of Waste and Cleansing services, but will also be used to better target the siting of the bins to maximise their efficiency.

Prioritisation Criteria

- 4.9 It is not possible to define specific sites which will and will not receive litter bins. The following areas will normally be viewed as high priority to receive litter bins:
- Main arterial routes and other high footfall and through route areas;

- Main areas of commerce and retail;
 - Key routes in relation to secondary schools;
 - Near fast food and takeaway retailers;
 - Public transport hubs (eg. Bus stops and similar areas) where large numbers of people stand for periods of time, particularly in central areas;
 - Entrances to parks and significant public spaces.
- 4.10 The following areas will not normally be viewed as high priority for litter bin placements, or may in some cases be ruled out for litter bin placement:
- Exclusively residential areas, except where these become high priority due to one of the reasons above;
 - Locations where the litter bin would be sited in close proximity to a household waste bin (i.e. the communal bins which are sited on street in tenemental areas, and are provided for the disposal of household waste AND litter);
 - Locations where the litter bin is being abused, including: inappropriate disposal of household or commercial waste which has not been resolved by engagement or enforcement; sites which are subject to arson or vandalism.

Other Siting Criteria

Siting with regard to pedestrians

- 4.11 Care must be taken to ensure that litter bins do not impede pedestrian flows and take into account the particular needs of people who use wheelchairs and prams. A minimum footpath width of 1.5m must be maintained.

Public events

- 4.12 The provision of temporary litter bins may be considered at specific locations to reflect increased pedestrian flows and litter generation at certain times, e.g. during public events.
- 4.13 Other criteria with regard to safe siting, or whether or not to provide a separate recycling service should be taken into account when siting these bins. Litter bins must not be provided to collect commercial waste and it must be made clear that events organisers must put in place separate arrangements for the segregation of commercial materials for recycling and disposal of commercial waste in compliance with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations and other pertinent legislation.

Parks and other similar public spaces

- 4.14 The siting of bins in public parks and greenspaces presents some particular challenges in terms of efficiency, capacity and safety. It is usually viewed as beneficial to encourage park users to take their waste to strategic locations,

usually at entrances and exits, so that the litter bin can be serviced safely without having to drive into or around the greenspace.

- 4.15 Therefore, as facilities are upgraded the following principles will be adopted:
- Litter bin locations will be moved from throughout the park or public space, to key locations e.g. Leith Links;
 - The maximum capacity must be provided;
 - The facilities should be designed to take account of the usage of the sites, with dedicated facilities being provided as appropriate for barbecue waste, specific appropriate recycling streams, etc.

Recycling

4.16 Scottish legislation, and the Council's Waste and Cleansing Strategy, both assume or require that waste should be segregated and separately collected as close to source as possible to maximise recycling and the recovery of materials.

4.17 The Council also takes a pragmatic view of the effectiveness and efficiency of such measures, and the Council's strategy acknowledges the particular challenges associated with collecting litter as a segregated stream for recycling while maintaining the relevant high standards of quality. Therefore:

- All litter bin waste must be disposed of via the relevant contract to allow for it to be sorted post collection and relevant waste streams recycled;
- Recycling bins for litter are therefore NOT required at every location, but should be considered at key locations where there are sufficient quantities of key recyclates;
- Segregated litter bins MUST consider following;
 - How the bins will be emptied- under no circumstances can segregated recycling bins be mixed with other waste;
 - Which materials it is most appropriate to target (e.g. cans and plastic bottles in parks, newspapers on main arterial routes and bus stops and termini?);
 - Bins must be labelled appropriately for specific target materials, and not labelled just "recycling";
 - Contamination risks (which can be offset by appropriate design);
- Where the recycling message is used on UNsegregated litter bins, it must NOT state that the materials are recycled, but that the contents are SENT for sorting so that some of them can be recycled.

Specific Waste Streams

4.18 Barbecues: consideration will be given to the siting of dedicated litter bins or containers for the safe disposal of hot waste at locations where there is a history of barbecue usage during good weather, etc.

4.19 Dog waste: the Council's policy is to maximise efficiency by collecting bagged dog waste alongside general waste. No dedicated dog waste bins will be

provided. This will be reviewed should it undermine the separate objective of sorting mixed waste for recycling.

Implementation

- 5.1 This policy will be implemented and maintained by the Council's Waste and Cleansing Service.

Roles and responsibilities

- 6.1 The Waste and Cleansing Manager has overall responsibility for the implementation and maintenance of the policy.

Related documents

- 7.1 None

Equalities impact

- 8.1 No direct equalities impacts have been identified as a result of this policy.

Sustainability impact

- 9.1 Waste and Cleansing policies are designed to support integrated recycling services as part of an overall waste management service.
- 9.2 Provision of an efficient cleansing service supported by efficient and appropriate use of litter bins assets serves to support the delivery of a clean and attractive local environment.

Risk assessment

- 10.1 This policy has been agreed by the Transport and Environment Committee as part of the policy assurance process which seeks to ensure increased accountability, transparency and efficiencies concerning Council actions and operations.

10.2 Failure to operate efficient, reliable and customer focussed services represents a risk to the Council's reputation. This policy will serve to better manage expectations and use of a finite resource.

Review

11.1 All Waste and Cleansing Policies will be reviewed on an annual basis and agreed at Transport and Environment Committee

Appendix 1: Factors for consideration:

- Cost
- Bin density (how far do people have to walk?)
- Bin size
- Bin type?
- Land ownership- owned or adopted land only
- Location *type*(e.g. *high priority areas as outlined in the policy*)
- Usage/ demand
- Safety (public and staff)
- Bins *creating* litter (whether due to capacity, misuse or location).
- Vandalism and arson
- Terrorism
- Evaluation
- Design for recycling
- Proximity to household waste (communal) bins which can perform same function.
- Parks, green spaces, civic areas, squares, plazas, etc