



Litter Bin Policy

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Distribution

Internal: All SCC Staff

External: Website/Councillors/Partners

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Salisbury City Council has no legal duty to provide litter bins but it does have a duty to keep Council owned land and public highways clear of litter and refuse as far as practicable.
- 1.2. Litter bins are provided, maintained, and emptied as the main method of controlling the litter and dog waste problems that some areas experience (note all bins provided are dual in use – being used to collect both litter and dog waste). There are over 300 litter bins located across the city - this is a fairly large number in relation to the size of the city.
- 1.3. Whilst the City Council is committed to providing sufficient litter bins to help discharge its responsibilities under the Environmental Act 1990, the City Council has never had a policy for agreeing the provision and siting of litter bins. As a council we regularly receive requests for additional litter bins which is often not the solution to a specific problem. In the future all new litter bin requests will be evaluated against this policy criteria so that they are only located in areas where it can be demonstrated that there is a genuine need.
- 1.4. This policy helps to support Government's advice to develop an integrated strategy to resolve the problem of litter and improve cleanliness that includes defining standards and working in partnership with local communities.

2. Request for Additional Litter Bins

- 2.1. The purpose of this policy is to detail how the city council will respond to the request for additional litter bins.
- 2.2. All requests for additional litter bins will be evaluated against the following criteria:
 - 2.2.1. Scale of the litter/dog waste problem via a two month survey of the area – will the additional litter bin make a real impact on the problem or can this be addressed in other ways e.g. larger bins, enforcement, signage?
 - 2.2.2. Identification of a suitable location - litter bins will only be supplied, installed, maintained and emptied if they are on land for which SCC has direct responsibility for e.g. Parks, Open Spaces etc. or a secondary responsibility - Highways and Pavements on behalf of Wiltshire Council. SCC will not install litter bins on private property.
 - 2.2.3. Suitability of the location from an ascetic perspective - the need to reduce street clutter, particularly in more sensitive locations such as the Market and Guildhall Squares, Conservation Areas and/or near to listed buildings.
 - 2.2.4. Whether moving an existing bin would address the issue.
 - 2.2.5. Type/size of bin required – (see note 2.2.1)
 - 2.2.6. Number and location of existing bins in the area.
 - 2.2.7. Accessibility to all including collection vehicle.
 - 2.2.8. Cost of installation/maintenance - costs for emptying the bin as some in more remote areas can have disproportionate costs.

- 2.2.9. The impact from a cost perspective of adding additional bins
- 2.2.10. The possibility of valid objections from neighbours – (see note 2.2.2)

2.3. Notes

- 2.4. Where deemed appropriate litter bins with recycling facilities may be installed instead of, or in addition to, standard litter bins.
- 2.5. Also size of litter bins in the immediate vicinity – would larger litter bins nearby solve the issue?
- 2.6. This policy does not suggest public consultation on the installation of litter bins in general. However in some circumstances, it is recommended, such as when bins are proposed in close proximity to houses that discussion is held locally with those affected by the proposed installation.

3. Emptying and Maintaining Litter Bins

- 3.1. Litter bins will be emptied on such a frequency that will prevent them overflowing. This will be based on their locations 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. If litter bins are not being used or being used very infrequently they may be removed.
- 3.2. All litter bins will be maintained to a standard that is fit for purpose. When a litter bin is damaged or stolen it will be replaced only if it meets the criteria above for new litter bins. Also litter bins that have a history of constant vandalism may not be replaced.