



Report of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)

Cabinet – 20 October 2022

Litter Bin Strategy

Purpose:	To seek approval from Cabinet on Swansea Council's Litter Bin Strategy.
Policy Framework:	Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's Natural Resources and Biodiversity Environmental Protection Act 1990
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Cabinet: 1) Approves Swansea's Litter Bin Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Any Litter Bin Strategy must align with relevant, current European and Welsh Government policies, legislative Acts and Swansea's Corporate Plan 2017-22.
- 1.2 The Corporate Plan clearly states its commitment to four of the Council's Corporate Priorities that apply to this Strategy. They also contribute to the national Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
 - **Safeguarding people from harm** – To ensure all public areas are safe and kept clean/free from litter to prevent physical/biological harm;

- **Transforming our Economy and Infrastructure** – To help ensure Swansea maintains a clean and attractive environment thus encouraging and sustaining the local economy;
- **Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity** – Tackling and reducing litter has a direct impact on the enhancement and growth of plant and animal species;
- **Transformation and future Council development** - Sustainable Cleansing services that are fit for the future through continual service improvement.

2. Overview of Swansea's Proposed Litter Bin Strategy

- 2.1 The proposed Strategy is attached as Appendix 1 and outlines Swansea's approach to all aspects of operational and future bin management.
- 2.2 The Strategy outlines our current service provision, the processes and matters for consideration in all aspects of bin management. It also helps to provide a framework enabling a consistent approach to justify operational and strategic decisions.
- 2.3 The document highlights the potential for future development, the operational challenges currently faced, and how we can best meet those challenges.

3. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 3.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act 2010 (Public Sector Equality Duty and the Socio-Economic Duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- 3.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals.'
- 3.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 3.4 This is a low-risk proposal as it will deliver an improvement in service provision that should have a positive impact across the population. It has been consulted on and supports our ambitions regarding the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 3.5 A copy of the IIA screening confirms that a full IIA is not required and can be found as an Appendix 2 to this report.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The strategy focuses on operational efficiency and a practical, common-sense approach to overall bin management. The provision of a Rapid Response Bin Team by way of Economic Recovery Funds of £91k has already seen benefits for bin emptying together with a more targeted approach to address damaged (removal and installation of new) and dirty bins. Continuation of this service has been confirmed until the end of 2022/2023 pending review at that point. Revenue from existing budgets is utilised for ongoing bin replacement and ensures future mitigation relating to poor condition of bins in the authority. For continued delivery of these services, ongoing investment will be required in future years which is yet to be confirmed.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Environmental Protection Act 1990 – places a duty on the Local Authority to ensure its land is, so far as is practicable, clean and clear from litter and refuse. Although not specifically mentioned in associated Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse and Associated Guidance 2007 made under the Act, the provision of litter and/or dog bins in strategic locations plays a key role to help reduce the amount of litter on our streets.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Litter Bin Strategy
Appendix 2 – IIA Screening form