



Report for:	SPAЕ Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	23 January 2018
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Dog Waste Bin Contract
Contact:	Councillor Janice Marshall, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Sustainability Craig Thorpe, Group Manager, Environmental Services
Purpose of report:	To advise Members on plans to bring back in-house the dog waste bin emptying contract, review the amount of bins in the Borough and divert dog waste into general litter bins where appropriate.
Recommendations	That the report be noted and any comments be passed to the Portfolio Holder for her consideration.
Corporate objectives:	To provide a clean, safe and green environment
Implications: 'Value For Money Implications'	<u>Financial</u> It is expected to achieve a £30k saving as a result of reducing the number of dog bins that need emptying.
Risk Implications	There could be a reputational risk if dog walkers are not made aware of their ability to use litter bins but suitable publicity will be arranged to mitigate this.
Equalities Implications	None arising from this report.
Health and Safety Implications	Risk of odour and handling of dog waste

- 1.0 Following a tendering process the contract to empty the Boroughs dog waste bins was awarded to TBS Hygiene Services on 10th December 2013. It was set to set to expire on 9th December 2017 however this has now been extended until 31st March 2018.
- 2.0 The Contract consists of the emptying of dog waste bins on a frequency dependent on their popularity and usage. There are 440 dog waste bins all of which are emptied weekly except 97 which are emptied twice weekly.
- 3.0 The value of the Contract is £52k per annum
- 4.0 The performance of the Contract has been satisfactory and generally public satisfaction has been good with few complaints however calls from the public have increased during the summer months and following Bank Holidays
- 5.0 Modelling suggests that the Council could make a revenue saving of £30k per year by phasing out the specialist dog bins and instead encouraging dog owners to use general litter bins. Officers have contacted colleagues in the Herts Waste Partnership to learn if any of them have undertaken similar projects. A number of other questions were also asked to which Officers are considering the responses.
- 6.0 The survey showed that all 9 of our neighbouring Authorities have a number of dog bins however all of them accept dog waste in general litter bins. Some of our neighbours actively encourage disposal of dog waste in general litter bins by placing stickers on them.
- 7.0 In terms of the risk of odour this has not been raised as an issue with any neighbouring Authority. It is felt that as the dog waste is disposed of amongst other waste streams which do carry odours, and dispersed within a larger container, this serves to eliminate odours.
- 8.0 It is accepted that bins do smell, particularly in the summer, this in itself is not a health risk it just isn't pleasant
- 9.0 In terms of the health or safety implications of dog waste bins these are marginal and similar to those that currently exists in the litter bins.
- 10.0 The main risk from dog waste is from Toxocariasis (Roundworm). These, in extreme cases can cause blindness, however, the eggs from the parasite are also found in fox faeces and mainly left on the soil where the faeces hits the floor (from infected animals). Therefore the risk is greater from contaminated soil or sand (children dropping food on the floor etc.) rather than it being bagged and left within a litter bin.
- 11.0 In terms of litter bins in general, there is a potential to contract a great number of diseases including, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Staphylococcal skin infections to name but a few. Generally they are not clean and advice has always been to wash hands after handling rubbish. That said the risk is still low.
- 12.0 With regard the health and safety of the operatives emptying the bins the dog waste is contained in "dog poo bags" and then further contained in the bin liner itself. In addition all crews are issued with PPE including gloves.
- 13.0 Human Resources are in discussions with the current service provider to determine whether TUPE applies which would enable the current operative to transfer into DBC's ranks.

- 14.0 In readiness of this bins that have been in need of repair or replacement have been marked as “out of service” and dog walkers requested to dispose of their dog waste in the nearest litter bin located nearby. We have received no complaints thus far.
- 15.0 A further rationalisation of dog waste bins, and their location in relation to general litter bins, has been undertaken and it is envisaged that a further 176 dog waste bins could be removed.
- 16.0 A further 78 bins require surveying
- 17.0 It is intended to set a number of parameters around the removal of dog waste bins such as not removing if there is no general litter bin in the immediate vicinity. A larger general litter bin can also be installed in areas of high usage.
- 18.0 Litter bins will be closely monitored for usage and where overflowing occurs then in the first instance the frequency of emptying will be increased and in the longer term the installation of a larger bin will be considered.
- 19.0 The dog waste bin used in Dacorum are capable of holding 35 litres of waste. General litter bins are sized 110 litres
- 20.0 It is intended to produce a press release nearer the time similar to the one produced by North Herts District Council. This can be seen in **Appendix 1**.

Appendix 1



North Hertfordshire District Council

Changes to the way dog owners can dispose of their dog waste

PR Date: Thursday, 23 March 2017 - 9:15am

North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) is set to rebrand its litter bins to accept dog waste from April 2017 in a bid to save £29,000 a year. Instead, dog walkers will be encouraged to bag and dispose of dog waste in their purple bins or park litter bins across the district.

Using litter bins to dispose of dog waste eliminates the need for dog owners to find and use specific dog bins. There will also be an additional eighty litter bins installed in local parks as part of the move to help ease the increased volume that the litter bins will be accommodating. As the litter bins are also maintained more frequently than dog waste bins there is less chance of them overflowing.

To help with the rationalization of the district's dog bins and the move towards using litter bins for dog waste, the Council will launch an awareness campaign. Most dog owners are already dealing with their dog's poo responsibly; however, the campaign 'Bag it, Bin it' will raise further awareness and reinforce the Council's work to increase responsible dog ownership.

Vaughan Watson, NHDC's Head of Leisure and Environmental Services, said: "As we all know, the funding structures that have been in place until now are being seriously eroded at all levels by Central Government and cost cutting decisions like this are being made by local authorities across the country. Currently NHDC spends over £29,000 every year to maintain the 432 dog bins across the district. Sending the waste collected from litter bins together with dog waste to landfill for disposal will cut costs and will have less of an impact on our communities than other options considered.

"Most dog owners are very responsible and do pick up after their pets, but some people ignore the rules and this creates a problem for everyone. Using park litter bins for dog waste is something that neighboring authorities have already introduced, and they have been successful at managing the problem of dog fouling while reducing costs. We hope that dog owners everywhere will get behind us and support the campaign."

Notes to editors

North Hertfordshire currently has 432 dog waste bins across the district costing the Council £29,000 annually in maintenance costs. On 1 April 2017 NHDC plans to remove 260 dog bins and an additional 80 litter bins will be installed at locations not in direct sight lines of an existing litter bin.

Existing park litter bins will be rebranded to accept bagged dog waste so that all litter waste and bagged dog waste can be taken to landfill sites for disposal in a mixed collection. This cost cutting measure was agreed by Councillors at a meeting of the Council in February 2017 as part of the Service and Financial Planning process for 2017-18.

End