

<b>Report title</b>	<b>Dog Waste and Litter Bin Policy</b>
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<b>Department</b>	Corporate Head of Environmental Services
<b>Exempt?</b>	No
<b>Exemption type</b>	Not applicable
<b>Reasons for exemption</b>	Not applicable

**Purpose of report:**

To resolve

**Synopsis of report:**

Feedback from consultation regarding bins and recommendation to adopt a new litter and dog waste bin policy.

**Recommendation(s):**

To adopt a litter and dog waste bin policy as outlined in item 1.2 of this report.

## 1. Context and background of report

1.1 A draft bin policy covering street recycling bins, litter bins and dog waste bins was proposed at Environmental Services Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The introduction of recycling litter bins was approved at that meeting.

With respect to dog waste bins and litter bins the committee agreed to a consultation exercise as follows.

To approve a public consultation in accordance with Annex 4 of the Constitution for the proposed:

- a. programmed removal and/or replacement of separate dog waste bins (to include the review of any bin locations),
- b. introduction of signage on all new litter bins to explain that dog waste can be disposed of in general litter bins; and
- c. introduction of a new litter bin policy as set out in Appendix A of the March report.

## **1.2 Runnymede Draft Bin Policy (Draft as proposed at the Environment and Sustainability Committee in March 2023)**

### **Location of Bins**

Litter bins will be located in Runnymede towns and open spaces to support the duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to keep land clear of litter and refuse.

### **Repair/replacement**

Bins will be replaced when broken beyond repair and where a continuing need for a bin at that location is demonstrated.

### **Style of Bins**

The style and size of bins will be chosen to reflect the location with all new bins to be lidded rather than open topped where possible. New bins will have signs to state that dog waste can be deposited. New bins will be to a standard approved design where possible to ensure consistency and ease of opening and emptying.

### **Frequency of emptying bins**

High street bins will be emptied daily. In other locations bins will be emptied according to season, weather, and local demand with the overarching aim to empty all bins when full but before they overflow.

Overflowing or damaged bins can be reported via the website at [Street cleaning – Runnymede Borough Council](#)

### **Replacement of dog waste bins**

Following a consultation, we will commence a programme to remove all dog waste bins with signposting to explain that dog waste can be deposited into any litter bin.

### **Replacement of litter bins**

Additional litter bins will be provided where capacity dictates.

## **2. Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended**

- 2.1 In accordance with annex 4 of the constitution the Trainee Policy Officer working with the Corporate Head of Environmental Services and Communications Officer developed an online consultation for residents. The consultation consisted of 6 questions with full details at appendix 1.
- 2.2 The dog waste and litter bin consultation was conducted via an online survey and sought Runnymede's residents' thoughts on a number of bin related issues including the proposal to phase out dog waste bins in Runnymede's streets, open spaces and parks, replacing them with general litter bins.
- 2.3 The survey was posted via Runnymede Borough Council's social media account on 9th of May 2023. The survey was open for four weeks and closed 6th of June 2023.
- 2.4 The consultation report is attached as appendix 1
- 2.5 The consultation successfully delivered a high level of public engagement with 70 respondents completing the survey. This response is higher than generally achieved and demonstrated the importance residents place on effective management of litter and dog waste.

- 2.6 Of the 70 respondents, 60 (86%) agreed with the proposed policy to phase out dog waste bins and 10 (14%) disagreed with the proposal to phase out dog waste bins.
- 2.7 The full details of respondents' comments and responses are attached at appendix 1

### 3. Areas for Development

3.1 Analysis of responses identified a number of development areas for teams within Environmental Services, Communications and Digital Transformation. Actions are proposed as follows.

Development Opportunity identified	Action proposed
47% of respondents were aware they could dispose of dog waste in any bin. This was a reasonable percentage but over half of respondents were not aware of the changes introduced into the Countryside Code in 2014.	New signage has been developed that will be printed on stickers and placed on litter public bins around the borough to show residents that dog waste can be disposed of in general litter bins.  The comms team will run a series of social media posts to raise awareness around dog waste being accepted in public litter bins.
27% of respondents knew about the "report it" function on the Runnymede Council Website with 63% unaware.	The comms team will promote the "report it" function via the RBC website and on social media.
4% of respondents were aware that the Runnymede interactive map showed where litter and dog waste bins are located. 96% were not aware.	The new bin signage will incorporate a QR code that links to the bin "report it" page and Runnymede maps showing all the litter and dog waste bins. Full or damaged bins can be reported using the QR code link.

#### 3.2 New litter bin sticker with QR code



#### **4. Policy framework implications**

- 4.1 The new policy is in line with the Corporate Business plan. Health and well being is influenced by the local environment. Complaints about litter and dog waste form a significant proportion of all complaints received by the council. The new policy will enable residents to deposit dog waste in a wider number of bins. The new policy will standardise lidded bins which are more effective at containing waste hygienically

#### **5. Resource implications/Value for Money**

- 5.1 The cost of stickers and replacement bins will be met from existing resources.

#### **6. Legal implications**

- 6.1 The Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on landowners and occupiers including Local Authorities to keep land clear of refuse and litter. There is no obligation to provide litter bins, but their installation, maintenance and programmed replacement supports a healthier environment for residents. There is also no obligation to separate general and dog waste.

#### **7. Equality implications**

- 7.1 There are no equalities implications.

#### **8. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications**

- 8.1 Environmental implications are covered in 5.1. Encouraging and supporting residents and visitors to use litter bins reduces the volume of fly tipping and the cost of fly tipping collections.

#### **9. Other implications**

- 9.1 None.

#### **10. Timetable for Implementation**

- 10.1 The new policy will be implemented immediately subject to resources and capacity.

#### **11. Conclusions**

- 11.1 To recommend adoption of the litter and dog waste bin policy as outlined in item 1.2 of this report.

#### **12. Background papers**

- 12.1 Environmental and Sustainability Committee March 9<sup>th</sup> 2023. Agenda item 8

**13. Appendices**

- 13.1 Appendix 1 – Dog Waste and Litter Bin Consultation Results Final Report.