

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
20 JUNE 2005

REPORT ON: INTRODUCTION OF STREET BINS

REPORT BY: HEAD OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

REPORT NO: 409-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend the introduction of street bins to assist the department to meet the current demands of the service and combat early morning litter problems within the City Centre area.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The introduction of street refuse bins in selected streets where there is insufficient storage areas for trade/domestic refuse.
- 2.2 That enforcement notices under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 be served where problems exist, or continue to exist.
- 2.3 Further surveys be conducted within twelve months of 2.1 being introduced to determine if further action is required.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 It is estimated that 70 bins will be introduced at a cost of £1,050.00. The cost of these bins will be met from the Department's Capital budget for purchase of bins.

4.0 DUNDEE 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised.
- 4.2 Health is protected by creating safe clean environment.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Reference is made to Committee Report No. 601-2004 wherein it was recommended that the Waste Management and Environmental Health and Trading Standards Departments prepare joint proposals to combat litter problems within the City Centre in the early morning and report to the appropriate Committee.

7.0 CURRENT SITUATION

- 7.1 During May 2004, following complaints of bags of waste being targetted by seagulls, the Waste Management Department carried out early morning surveys of waste deposited on pavements/streets from domestic and trade sources.
- 7.2 The survey indicated the problem was not widespread, but related to bags being deposited outside specific properties within the city centre area.
- 7.3 Subsequent checks indicated the majority of waste arose from domestic properties.
- 7.4 It also highlighted that many domestic properties in the city centre area do not have recesses for the storage of waste, and in many instances bags of refuse are indiscriminately placed out for collection on a daily basis.
- 7.5 Local planning legislation currently does not enforce developers to provide suitable waste storage areas for new builds or renovations and this further compounds the current situation.

8.0 EXISTING STORAGE PROBLEMS

- 8.1 Many of the city centre flatted properties, particularly those above shops and commercial outlets have inadequate, and in some instances no storage areas for their waste.
- 8.2 This results in waste being presented on the kerbside on a daily basis usually in boxes or carrier bags.
- 8.3 The presentation of waste in this manner causes major litter problems, it is a source of food for seagulls, and during windy conditions it creates major littering problems.
- 8.4 The introduction of street bins will reduce both the current seagull problem and the incidence of wind blown litter. It will also overcome the problem of insufficient waste storage areas for the properties mentioned in 8.1.
- 8.5 These bins would be for the exclusive use of known residents and trade/commercial outlets.
- 8.6 Collections of both domestic and trade waste occurs in the city centre 6 days per week, therefore it is anticipated that the introduction of 240 litre wheeled bins would be sufficient to service the majority of the problematic trade and domestic properties.

9.0 ENFORCEMENT

- 9.1 Measures can be taken to reduce the incidence of bags being indiscriminately placed on pavements throughout the city centre.
- 9.2 A notice served under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 requires householders to comply with conditions placed in the schedule.
- 9.3 The schedule can include the type of receptacle to be used for storage of waste and the times it should be placed out for collection purposes.
- 9.4 Failure to comply with the notice can result in a fine on summary conviction.

- 9.5 The Waste Management Department is currently investigating the possibility of introducing wardens to deal with a range of environmental issues such as fly tipping, graffiti, illegal deposit of bags by traders and householders, and litter dropped by the general public. These wardens would have powers to issue fixed penalty notices to offenders.
- 9.6 The wardens would be utilised on a city wide basis and would enhance the work currently being undertaken by the Trade Waste Monitor.

10.0 TRADE WASTE

- 10.1 The problems highlighted in 7.4 of poor or insufficient storage for domestic waste also relates to waste arising from trade/commercial outlets. The majority of these premises purchase trade bags and present them on the pavement between 7.00 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. each morning.
- 10.2 The Waste Management Department's Trade Waste Section carries out spot checks of waste presented by trade/commercial customers to ensure they comply with Duty of Care. Any refuse arising from late hours catering establishments currently using bags would require to be stored in bins.
- 10.3 Presently, inspections on trade premises are carried out between 8.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. Routine early morning checks would be introduced to ensure late hours catering establishments are satisfactorily complying with the Code of Practice for Late Hours Caterers.
- 10.4 Where significant littering problems persist outwith the recommended practices contained within the Code, there are additional powers available to the Council under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, including those detailed in paragraph 9.5.

11.0 PUBLIC LITTERING

- 11.1 The Waste Management Department operates a street cleansing service in the city centre from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and 7.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. on Sunday. Refuse collection takes place in the morning between Monday to Saturday only.
- 11.2 The main problem areas within the city centre are where residents or traders indiscriminately deposit bags. Litter dropped by patrons of late night catering establishments further compound this problem.
- 11.3 Although the number of litter bins in the city centre is adequate; there would be some benefit in increasing their capacity and ensure they are hooded in construction to prevent seagulls removing litter and foodstuffs.
- 11.4 It would also be beneficial at this time to review, and where appropriate increase, the number of litter bins on main routes leading from the city centre where littering problems persist over weekend periods.

12.0 FUTURE MONITORING

- 12.1 Further surveys will be carried out within 12 months of the proposals being introduced to identify specific sources of litter particularly during the main period when late hour catering establishments are trading.
- 12.2 The results of the survey will assist in determining what future measures, if any, will be necessary, and include both the operational and financial implications for the Council.

13.0 CONSULTATION

- 13.1 Chief Executive
Depute Chief Executive (Finance)
Depute Chief Executive (Support Services)
Director of Planning and Transportation

14.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Jim Laing, Head of Waste Management

3 June 2005