

**Report of: Chief Officer Environmental Services**

**Report to: Chief Officer Financial Services & Director of Environments and Housing**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Subject: Significant Operational Decision - approval to fund a capital programme for the replacement of damaged and worn out litter bins across the City**

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s): All wards	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### 1.0 Summary of main issues

1. The previous capital programme for the replacement of litter bins was tied in with the much larger replacement of wheelie bins programme (scheme number 12594 ) and has now expired. This scheme included a sum of £300k spread over 10 years for an annual programme to replace litter bins at £30k per year. A new capital bid is required, but this time around the bids for replacement wheelie bins and litter bins are being submitted separately hence the need for this report.

2. It is estimated that a new broader 10 year scheme covering a wider variety of litter bin provision as outlined below would cost around £450k to cover the 10 year period to 2031/32 providing for expenditure of £45k per year.

3. Under the current litter bin contract, replacement litter bins are £210 each. As such £30k provides for the replacement of 142 litter bins a year or 1,420 bins over the 10 year life of the capital program. However, as can be seen below actual expenditure on litter bins has averaged £40k per annum or 190 bins per year. In addition "Recycling on the Go (ROTG)" bins as outlined below are also required. As such the total estimated capital program to fund these bins is:-

Litter bins £400k + Recycling on the go £50k TOTAL = £450k

Funding for the financing of this level of capital spend exists in the revenue budgets being submitted to Executive Board in February 2021.

4. The Director of Communities and Environment is recommended to note the content of this report and is requested to approve the authority to spend against a new Litter bin capital programme for the next 10

years 2021/22 to 2030/31 totalling £450k. This will require and injection of £450k into the capital program funded by prudential borrowing by the department.

### Recommendations

- a) That the Chief Officer Financial Services is requested to inject £450k into the capital programme funded via prudential borrowing, the funds of which are to be met by the Cleaner Neighbourhood Services.
- b) That the Chief Officer Environmental Services gives the approval to spend for the next 10 years 2021/22 to 2031/232 an average of £45k per annum.

## 2.0 Purpose of this report

The report seeks authority to spend of £450k for the replacement of Street Litter bins for the period late 2021/22 to 2031/32.

### 2.1 Standard Litter Bins

The provision of the standard ‘Leeds type’ litter bin is a key part of our litter reduction strategy and contributes significantly to reducing litter levels and improving the street scene. It’s much easier and efficient for the Council to empty a full litter bin than it is to employ a litter picker to manually pick individually discarded items of litter. The provision of litter bins encourages members of the public to dispose of their litter responsibly and also supports the Councils zero tolerance of those that litter. There’s no excuse for littering when litter bins have been provided and this helps justify any enforcement action we take such as issuing Fixed Penalty Notices or prosecutions for persistent offenders.

Of the £300k Street Litter bin budget that was approved back in 2008, £123k was spent prior to the creation of the Locality teams within the Environmental Action Service. The remaining £177k has been split between the 3 area teams and the City Centre as shown in the table below. This budget is now spent.

Capital spend in the last 4 years:-

Team	2017/18	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/21 as @ 17.02.21
City Centre	8,820k	22,500k	5,985k	9,527k
East	0	2,990k	14,480k	1,470k
South	0	2,255k	10,009k	15,750k
West	1,200k	9,240k	19,110k	12,465k
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,020k</b>	<b>36,985k</b>	<b>49,584k</b>	<b>39,212k</b>

Under the current contract we have with Broxap to replace bins, the cost is £210 per bin as such £30k is sufficient to replace 142 bins per year. However as shown in the table above, actual spend has been consistently higher than this averaging £40k for the last 3 years. This additional funding has come from year end spend from other budgets and is unlikely to continue. £40k is sufficient to purchase 190 bins at £210 per bin.

Across the City it is estimated we have 4,000 litter bins. Overtime bins deteriorate as they are metal and are left out in all weathers so will eventually corrode. But bins sometime require replacing earlier due to accident damage from vehicles or fire damage. In recent times £40k per year has proved sufficient to keep up with the rate of replacement of existing bins to maintain a reasonable stock of good condition bins. It

should be noted that the provision of new bins in new locations is funded via the wellbeing fund sponsored by local members. As such they are outside the scope of this report.

As with wheeled bins, litter bins will be funded by prudential borrowing as explained further in 4.4

## **2.2 Recycling on the Go (ROTG)**

Even before the pandemic, people living and working in Leeds were eating and drinking more whilst on the move. In 2018 the UK as a whole spent an estimated £17.4 billion on food and drink to eat on-the-go. This equates to about 13 billion plastic bottles, 9 billion drinks and nearly 3 billion coffee cups every year.

That's a lot of packaging, and less than half of local authorities had the street infrastructure in place to collect and recycle it. This is often because the quality of what's collected on the street is so poor that the costs don't stack up to collect it; either we put the wrong materials in the bin or it still has food or liquid in it. Either action results in contamination.

In 2019 Leeds working with Hubbub introduced a new approach. In the City Centre in conjunction with local businesses 80 new eye catching recycling points were introduced. Of these 10 were based on the new bright orange type coffee recycling bins (unit cost £600), the remainder being a combination of re-skinned derby type bins (unit cost £400 ) and the large yellow bins (unit cost £650). An app allows users to locate any of the 80 sites indicated by a yellow pin and also explains the type of waste that can be deposited in them.

Since its introduction the scheme has collected good quality recycling material in the form of 1.2 million coffee cups, 140,000 cans and 160,000 plastic bottles.

The estimated cost of maintaining the current ROTG offer is £25K every 5 years which is sufficient to replace the bin types described above, as they only have a 5 year lifespan.

## **3.0 Corporate Considerations**

### **3.1 Consultations and Engagement**

The Executive Member for Cleaner Stronger and Safer Communities has been briefed on these proposals.

CNT managers in the Environmental Action Service have been consulted with regard to litter bin provision.

### **3.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

3.2.1 A screening document has been prepared and an independent impact assessment is not required for the requested approvals. Equality, diversity, cohesion and integration have been considered throughout the development of this proposal particularly in relation to the acquisitions and siting of litter bins and responding to the needs of a diverse Leeds population in terms of street cleanliness.

### **3.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

3.3.1 Dealing with the City's waste is a key Council priority. This programme of spend will help ensure that the assets (i.e. the bins) remain fit for purpose.

3.3.2 The proposal also supports a wide range of activities deployed to keep the city clean, safe and litter-free. The proposal therefore supports our ambitions to be the Best City and the Best Council, and is consistent with the aspirations of this vision.

### **3.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

3.4.1 £450k is required for the replacement of Street Litter bins over a 10 year period and will be funded by prudential borrowing

3.4.2 The purchasing of litter bins is through a framework contract that was awarded through a competitive procurement exercise. Under the contract the price of bins is fixed at £210 per litter bin although that is expected to rise within the next few months to £250 per bin pending the procurement of a new contract

3.4.3 The purchasing of Recycling On The Go Bins was via Hubbub

3.4.4 Revenue implications will be met from the existing directorate budget.

### **3.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4..1 The approval of the recommendations in this report constitute a Significant Operational Decision under a value of £500,000. This decision is exempt from call-in procedures.

### **3.6 Risk Management**

5.1 There remains a risk that the amounts budgeted for are insufficient. The amounts sought have been based on spend in recent years and the price of bins is fixed under the terms of the contract with Broxap. However that contract is soon to expire and will require re-tendering.

5.2 If we are unable to replace damaged litter bins or continue with the recycling on the go scheme this is likely to lead to excessive litter on the ground which is detrimental to the street scene. More manual litter picking resources would be required to achieve the same level of street cleanliness.

### **4.0 Conclusions**

4.1 The existing bin replacement scheme (12594) has fully spent its budget in 2020/21.

4.2 The prudential borrowing repayments can be met from service revenue budgets.

### **5.0 Recommendations**

5.1 That the Chief Officer Financial Services is requested to inject £450k into the capital programme funded via prudential borrowing and the funds of which to be met by Cleaner Neighbourhoods arm of Environmental Services.

5.2 That the Chief Officer Environmental Services gives the approval to spend for the next 10 years 2021/22 to 2031/232 an average of £45k per annum.

### **6.0 Background documents – None**