

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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meeting date: TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021  
title: LITTER AND DOG BINS  
submitted by: J. HEAP – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
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## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform members of the current bin issues.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
  - Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
  - Corporate Priorities – To ensure best use of council resources.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are 508 no. litter bins and 111 no. dog bins in the borough. The bins are emptied either once or twice a week by the refuse, the street cleansing, the grounds maintenance crews or the dog wardens.

There are a number of pressing issues associated with the bins:

- 2.2 In 2018 the committee decided to accept dog waste in any/all litter bins across the borough. This has changed the ways that the bins are used.
- 2.3 The post mounted litter bins around towns are generally too small and are often overflowing.
- 2.4 There has not been a recent review considering the number and location of the bins and the Council are receiving requests for more and more bins.

## 3 ISSUES

- 3.1 In most cases, those asking for more bins presume that the only constraint is the purchase and installation cost of each bin. Whilst there is very little provision in our budgets for new bins, however, that is not the main consideration when extra bins are requested.
- 3.2 Litter bins and dog bins are emptied once or twice a week in the main, with some bins being emptied daily in the summer. That operation is carried out as part of daily duties of the four work groups mentioned above, but other than an additional 0.5FTE Dog Warden to the Councils workforce in 2019 no extra resources have been allocated as the number of bins and emptying operation has grown.

- 3.3 Unfortunately, it has become accepted practice locally, when a litter bin is full, to simply deposit the rubbish on top or on the floor next to the bin rather than take it home, even when the rubbish in question is dog waste!
- 3.4 In addition to the above, a number of litter bin locations on our main roads, where there are laybys, are now regularly and frequently used by people fly-tipping commercial waste. In all these cases – and particularly where the fly-tips are substantial – the time and effort needed to tidy up the area is significant and becoming potentially unmanageable.

## 4 **RISK ASSESSMENTS**

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
- Resources – None arising as a direct result of this report, although existing resources are becoming stretched. Any review will focus initially on making better use of existing resources rather than assuming that additional resources are available
  - Political – None arising as a direct result of this report, although, increasingly, Nigel Evans MP is writing in support of residents demanding additional litter bins.
  - Reputation – None arising as a direct result of this report.
  - Equality & Diversity – None arising as a direct result of this report.

## 5 **CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 Offices have already begun the process of reviewing what is in place currently. Where possible as assessment will be made of existing locations that are either little used/ unused or very well used.
- 5.2 When we have a complete picture of how the present arrangement is working, a further report will be brought to committee with recommendations for improvement.
- 5.3 In the meantime, our existing resources will be directed to continue the existing level of service until/ unless committee decides that changes are required.

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REF: Adrian Harper Community Services 04.01.2021