

Charnwood Borough Council

Assessment Report

1. What was being assessed, the scope of the assessment and objectives:

Litter Bin Policy

Objectives:

To establish the means by which acceptable standards of cleanliness will be maintained on land for which Charnwood Borough Council has responsibility i.e. through the installation, emptying and maintaining of litter and dog waste bins.

Clarification of the process for installing new, and replacement of existing, bins.

To ensure effective use of resources.

To reduce littering and promote on-street recycling.

To reduce the environmental and negative aesthetic impact of on-street waste collection.

2. Data and information considered

Litter Bin Policy

3. Who was involved or consulted

The Policy was put together by Environmental Services, and consultation was carried out with Parish Councils and Area Forums in Charnwood, and the RNIB.

4. Findings and options identified to reduce adverse impact

Only limited information was included in the policy about the provision and siting of bins to meet the needs of different age groups (e.g. there was no reference to the needs of young children who may need bins that are low enough to be reached, or close to areas frequented by, and therefore potentially more convenient for, elderly / less agile people).

If the views of people with a sight or severe sight impairment have not been considered, the waste bins selected and the policy re where they are placed could cause potential obstruction or hazard e.g. the bin pictured on page 7 is green, which if sited in a 'green' setting could be a potential hazard for people with sight impairment.

There could be issues for people with colour blindness identifying different bins by colour alone, if graphics are not used however the manufacturer may have already incorporated this in their design.

Similarly, without taking account of the needs of people with mobility difficulties or those who use a wheelchair, waste bins could cause access problems even rendering some areas impassable.

The ease of reading the policy could be improved by justifying the text to the left hand margin.

5. Changes made or to be made (if any)

As a result of the Equality Impact Assessment, consultation was carried out with the RNIB, who recommended that the policy be changed as follows:

- Bins should be designed to the Department of Transport's Inclusive Mobility guidelines, rather than the DDA guidelines.
- Reflective stainless steel bins should be avoided, as they don't contrast well with a predominantly grey background, and are therefore difficult for people with sight loss to locate or avoid.
- Banding on the bins should be in lighter colours so that the contrast is maximised on dark bins.
- Free-standing bins should be positioned out of the main line of travel or grouped with other existing street furniture so that they do not present a collision hazard, or reduce the usable width of the footway for people using wheelchairs, mobility aids or guide dogs.
- Post-mounted bins should not protrude into circulation space as a cane or guide dog could go underneath, leading their owner into the bin.

6. Plans and timescales for change

Completed.

7. Monitoring arrangements to be used to assess impact e.g. satisfaction testing

A quarterly satisfaction survey is carried out as part of the Environmental Services contract. This is a telephone survey of 200 respondents, from a range of demographics. The results are assessed each quarter, and modifications to the service considered, based on the results.

8. Contact details should anyone have queries

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