

Street Sweeping Review

Report by Ricky Moffat, Head of Commercial Operations

1 Purpose of Report

At its meeting of 29 April 2014, Committee were presented with a report entitled “Street Sweeping Review” which related to proposed improvements within Waste Services pertaining to the street sweeping and litter/dog fouling operations. Committee requested that the following issues be considered further and an update report be provided regarding:-

- The points weighting system, be introduced in principle but that the number of points allocated to requests from elected members be reconsidered;
- dog fouling penalty notices;
- cross working arrangements between Waste Services, Road Services and Land Services.

2 Background

2.1 Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee

At its meeting on 29 April 2014 the Special Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee were advised of a number of changes that were being proposed, which would enhance Street Cleansing, and therefore the visual amenity of Midlothian.

3 Points Weighting System for Placing of Dog/Litter Bins

Committee requested that the points weighting system proposed be amended in respect of requests from elected members and in particular that the number of points allocated to requests which came via elected members be reduced. A revised weighting system is attached at Appendix 1.

At its meeting of 12 August 2014 Council approved the capital expenditure necessary to purchase additional litter/dog fouling bins. Orders have been placed and on receipt these will be positioned at a number of locations assessed in line with the aforementioned weighting system. In the interim period a number of locations are being serviced utilising the existing bins currently in stock.

A list of the locations where a request has been made and assessed in line with the revised weighting system is attached in Appendix 2.

4 Dog Fouling Penalty Notices

- 4.1** Dog fouling continues to remain subject of a number of service requests which are investigated by the Council's Environmental Health staff, principally the Environmental Wardens.

To assist in the enforcement of the legislation persons reporting dog fouling are advised that the better quality intelligence they can provide regards the alleged perpetrators the greater the likelihood of Environmental Health staff witnessing an offence and identifying an offender. Environmental Health continue to serve Fixed Penalty Notices on all possible occasions with 25 served in 2013/14 and 7 served April to September 2014/15. The vast majority of offenders pay the £40 fee within the initial 28 days with the fee rising to £60 thereafter. In addition an analysis of all complaints received allows the team to identify the areas of greatest concern and they continue to devote time to conducting both overt and covert patrols in these areas.

- 4.2** Environmental Health recognises that the threat of being caught and fined is of a limited deterrent to the minority of individuals who allow their dog to foul without clearing up. Therefore in September 2013 the Council introduced the co-production scheme of Green Dog Walkers to Midlothian. This scheme allows local groups e.g., parent councils at schools, community action groups, neighbours and individuals to hold action events to publicise that they wish dog owners in their neighbourhood to be responsible and always remove fouling. To date there are in excess of 20 local groups holding events to inform locals about their responsibilities with almost 200 individuals having taken the Green Dog Walkers pledge to be a responsible dog owner and to assist other dog owners through the provision of disposal bags etc.

- 4.3** Earlier in 2014 the Council introduced the sticker campaign publicising the fact that bagged dog waste may be disposed of in any municipal litter bin, this was in response to a number of complaints that there were no specific dog waste bins. This has assisted with the matter in some areas but it is clear that there were a number of areas which lacked bin provision and where bins are lacking it is evident that some dog owners who initially pick up, discard the bags after if they have not encountered a bin within a suitable distance.

The Environmental Health team are currently working with the Waste Services to collate information to better inform where new waste bins should be installed. These locations will be assessed in line with the criteria agreed and bins placed to address this issue.

- 4.4** In terms of education the Environmental Health staff continues to engage with Midlothian schools providing school talks and assistance with signage etc around school perimeters. In 2013, Environmental Health trialled the use of temporary pavement and walkway stencils in a variety of colours, to remind dog owners to bag and bin their waste. Initial feedback suggested that the majority of residents considered this worthwhile. The Environmental Health team will shortly be placing stencils in and around school areas.

- 4.5** In terms of wider dog control matters it must be recognised that since the introduction of the Control of Dogs legislation the Environmental Wardens spend an increasing proportion of their resources and time dealing with dogs that are reported as out of control. As awareness of the legislation has grown and as dog attacks by dangerous dogs occur the numbers of reports of out of control dogs continues to increase. Dealing with a dog considered as out of control, which may, if no intervention occurs, become a dangerous dog, is absorbing ever increasing time in the Environmental Wardens schedule.

5 Cross Working Arrangements

- 5.1** Opportunities for closer cross working between Waste, Land and Road Services are continuously considered by the Head of Commercial Operations in conjunction with service managers. As an example the operation of the road gully and street sweeping vehicles was considered in terms of which service should have responsibility for these operations and whether there are options for different vehicle configurations e.g. combined gully and street sweeping capabilities.

Following an examination of vehicles currently available it is clear that there are no viable combined gully/street sweeping options on the market. The gully vehicles undertake drainage investigations and proving additional drainage within road services and in addition the vehicle is utilised six months of the year on winter duties a decision was taken to maintain the status quo and have the two vehicles continue to operate out of Fushiebridge as part of the Road Services operation.

However, although street cleaning and gully cleaning operations are carried out at different frequencies, as per the relevant codes of practise, where for example, a road closure is effected the opportunity is taken to carry out both operations at the same time.

- 5.2** Committee will be aware that Land Services have been successful in obtaining four green flags for parks within Midlothian. In addition to the cleaning and litter regime introduced as part of that work, a full review has been carried out in relation to over thirty other green spaces within Midlothian (Appendix 3).

This involves a regime that has been introduced which endeavours to ensure these areas are maintained to an appropriate standard. This regime has been designed to allow for Land Service staff to maintain the current bins and empty these on the required frequency.

There are however areas which could have historically fell either within land or waste services e.g. on cycleways. This has been clarified by the Head of Commercial Operations and existing and indeed new bins installed as part of the aforementioned bin installation programme will be the responsibility of Waste Services.

6 Criteria for the Placing of Bins

- 6.1** Land Services have adopted Waste Management Services criteria for the placing of bins. Requests for additional bins may be submitted by residents, Community Councils, Councillors, MP's, MSP's, Council officers, or other interested parties to both services. An assessment will be carried out based on the criteria (Appendix 1) and a decision made and advised to the person/s making the request within 20 working days. This will ensure there is appropriate co-ordination between waste and land services.

7 Report Implications

7.1 Resource

The provision made for the purchase of additional bins is £0.060 million. Agreement through the General Services Capital Plan 2014/15 was concluded in August 2014. A mini tender exercise has been carried out through Scotland Excel for the new bins.

7.2 Risk

There are no direct risks highlighted as a result of this report. However, the co-ordination of services will improve the level of service to the residents of Midlothian.

7.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- X None of the above

7.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The cleanliness of Midlothian Council is measured using the Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) index and the resources allocated to street sweeping can have a direct influence on the results achieved.

7.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The review of street sweeping and the measures highlighted in this report are designed to have a direct impact on the amount of litter/dog fouling on the streets and present a positive perspective to Midlothian residents and visitors alike.

7.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

There has been no external consultation or communication prior to formulating this report. However, officers within the relevant services have worked collaboratively in the production of this report.

7.7 Ensuring Equalities

There are no equality issues as a result of this report.

7.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The services highlighted in this report will encourage a reduction in the amount of litter and dog fouling on the streets and other areas of Midlothian.

7.9 IT Issues

There are no IT issues as a result of this report.

8 Summary

This report provides additional information to the committee in respect of the efforts made to reduce incidences of litter and dog fouling on the streets and other areas within Midlothian.

9 Recommendations

Committee is asked to:-

- Note the contents of this update report.

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Background Papers:

**MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE**

LITTER BIN ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Each request or requirement for a new bin should be assessed using the scoring system below.

Category	Options	Score
Street cleaning zone (NB covers tourist hotspots and lay-bys)	Zone 1 – High intensity of use, such as busy public areas, walkways	10
	Zone 2 – Medium intensity of use, such as residential areas	5
	Zone 3 – Low intensity of use, such as rural roads	1
	Zone 4 – Areas with special circumstances, such as health and safety issues	0
Proximity to existing bins	> 100 metres to any bins	10
	< 100 metres to 1 bin	5
	< 100 metres to more than 1 bin	0
Proximity to facilities	< 100 metres to schools	5
	< 50 metres to take away outlets	10
	< 50 metres to shops	5
	< 100 metres to sports facilities	2
	< 50 metres to bus stops	2
	<100 metres to car boot sales	1
	< 100 metres to other public facilities such as pub, church, community centre	2
Number of requests for de-littering received within six months	0	0
	1 – 2	2
	3 – 5	5
	6 – 10	10
	Over 11	15
Number of requests for a bin received within a six month period	1	0
	2 – 10	5
	11 – 50	10
	51 or over	15
Staff	Route and Staff Availability	10
	Non availability of staff	-40

Note: If request has come from Community Council, add 10 points.

If request has come from an elected member, add 2 points.

The overall score should be compared to the thresholds shown below, to determine the success of the request.

Score Outcome

0 – 40 Unsuccessful

41 – 80 Successful

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ASSESSED BIN LOCATIONS

Location	Request	Assessed	In Place
NEWTONGRANGE			
Main Street	Litter Bin	Yes	Criteria not met
3 Suttielea Road	Litter Bin	Yes	Yes
Victoria Road/Redwood Walk	Dog Bin	Yes	To be Installed
B6482 Between the Main Street and A7	Litter Bin	Yes	Criteria not met
Orchard Grange Estate	Dog Bin	Yes	Yes
MAYFIELD			
Blackcot Drive	Dog Bin	Yes	Criteria not met
Kilns	Dog Bin	Yes	Yes
DALKEITH			
Wester Kippielaw Path	Dog Bin	Yes	Yes
DANDERHALL			
Dalkeith Road	Litter Bin	Yes	Yes
BONNYRIGG			
Hopfield Estate	Dog Bin	Yes	Yes (6 no)
Corner Lasswade Road/Wadingburn	Litter Bin	Yes	Yes
Dobbies Road at the electrical sub station	Dog Bin	Yes	To be Installed
Between Myredale and Sherwood Way	Dog Bin	Yes	Yes
LOANHEAD			
Nivensknowe bus shelters beside ASDA	Litter Bin	Yes	Yes
PENICUIK			
A701 West of Belwood Road and Maurice wood Area	Litter Bin	Yes	Criteria not met
Kirkhill Road beside the old YMCA	Dog Bin	Yes	Criteria not met
GOREBRIDGE			
South Quarry	Dog Bin	Yes	To be Installed

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ASSESSED LOCATIONS

Location	Location	Location	Location	Location
Arniston Park	Cousland	Gore Glen Complex	Pathhead Park	Temple Park
Auchendinny Park	Cowden Park	KGV Park Loanhead	Penicuik Park	Viewbank Park
Bonnyrigg Park	Dalkeith Kings Park	Ladywood Park	Poltonhall Sports Complex	Vogie Country Park
Bilston Park	Danderhall Comm. Centre	Lasswade Park	Riverside / Woodburn	Waterfall Park
Birkenside	Danderhall Park	Mayfield Park	Rosewell Park	Waverley Park
Burghlee Park	Easthouses Park	Loanhead Memorial Park	Roslin Park	Ironmills Park
Carrington Park	Edgehead Park	Middleton	Roslin Glen Country Park	Bilston Burn
Clarinda Gardens	Eldindean Park	Millerhill Park	Shadepark	Cockpen Cemetery
Cornbank	Fala Park	Newton Village	Springfield Mill	
Cortleferry	Gore Glen Woodland Park	Newtongrange Park	St Cyr Park	