



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Streetscene and Engineering Cabinet Board

5th November 2021

**Report of the Head of Streetcare
Mike Roberts**

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Three Yearly Grit Bin Policy Review

Purpose of the Report:

To undertake a review of the Council's grit bin policy.

Executive Summary:

The current grit bin policy is required to be subject to a 'three year' review as determined at the Environment and Highways Cabinet Board of 29th October 2018 when the matter was last considered. The policy was originally agreed at a previous meeting of the Environment and Highways Cabinet Board on 6th September 2012, following consideration by a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

Background:

The last review of the current grit bin policy was reported to the Streetscene & Engineering Cabinet Board of 7th September 2018. The policy was originally established following a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group which reported to the Environment and Highways Cabinet Board on 6th September 2012.

The policy is that:

- There is a cap on the number of grit bins at current levels, now totalling 511, with the exception of any provision as part of new housing developments, or requests for grit bins that are fully funded by third parties; and,
- There is provision for movement of existing grit bins within wards subject to all members in that ward being in agreement.

The purpose of capping the number of grit bins within the county borough was to ensure that the level of service provision was contained within the resources available for maintaining them.

Members previously asked that the policy is subject to a 'three year' review, and the last review was conducted by the Streetscene and Engineering Cabinet Board on 7th September 2018. At the last review it was concluded that as resources had not increased the policy should continue with another review in a further three years.

Further to the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group in 2012, the adopted guidelines for consideration of grit bins is as follows:

- Is the location on a bus route;
- Is the location a steep hill;
- Is the location in a known cold area;

- Is the grit bin likely to be used;
- Is the location on a precautionary salting route;
- Is the area prone to icing up; and,
- Is there already an existing salt bin nearby to serve the area.

In light of the continuing financial pressures with respect to the core funding of services, it remains the case that it would not be possible to accept and maintain ongoing requests for additional grit bins. It is therefore proposed that the current policy should continue.

It is accepted that some bins have been historically located and there may be a need for review in some cases from time to time. Furthermore, it has previously been agreed that ward members with their local knowledge are best placed to agree the location for grit bins within their ward, within the eligibility criteria. To this end provision is included within the current policy for existing grit bins to be relocated with the agreement of all members of the ward concerned.

Financial Impacts:

No financial implications should the current policy be maintained

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required. A summary is included below.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No implications

Workforce Impacts:

No implications if the current policy is maintained.

Legal Impacts:

No implications

Risk Management Impacts:

It is known that some Members would like further provisions in their Wards which they believe to be justified, however the Council's budgets and resource levels continue to be restricted and there is already expected to be a financial shortfall generally when it comes to the budget round without accounting for any service growth.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations:

Having had due regard to the first stage Integrated Impact Assessment, it is recommended that the existing policy be continued, subject to a review in a further three years.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To maintain service provision within resource levels.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period'

Appendices:

IIA

List of Background Papers:

Task & Finish Team Report to the Chair of Environment & Highways Scrutiny Committee, 6th September 2012.

Report of the Head of Streetcare to the Environment & Highways Cabinet Board, 29th October 2015

Report of the Head of Streetcare to the Streetscene & Engineering Cabinet Board, 7th September 2018

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