

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Litter Bins Task &amp; Finish Group</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Community & Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 28 November 2023
<b>WARD</b>	(All Wards);
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Neil Carr – Scrutiny Officer

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

At its meeting on 2 October 2023 the Committee agreed to establish a Task & Finish Group to scrutinise the provision and emptying of litter bins across the Borough and to submit any recommendations to the Council's Executive.

The report sets out draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Task & Finish Group.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee:

- 1) consider and amend, as necessary, the draft Terms of Reference set out in the report;
- 2) determine which Members will sit on the Task & Finish Group, using the Council's proportionality rules;
- 3) consider the timeframe for the Task & Finish Group's deliberations.

## **Background**

At its meeting on 2 October 2023, the Committee considered a report which gave details of the outcome of a public consultation exercise relating to potential changes and associated savings relating to the Council's Street Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance services.

The 2 October report invited the Committee to debate and arrive at a recommendation on whether the litter bins (identified for removal) should be retained or removed. The report noted the level of public concern relating to this proposal. It also noted that, should the litter bins be retained, the required financial saving would be forgone and would become a financial pressure to resolve.

Having considered the report, the Committee recommended to the Executive that a number of proposed service reductions be implemented. However, it was noted that there was most public concern about the potential removal and reduced emptying of litter bins. The Committee recommended to the Executive that the proposed reduction of litter bins and reduced frequency of emptying of some bins was not implemented.

The Committee agreed to establish a Task & Finish Group to scrutinise the provision and emptying of litter bins across the Borough and to submit any recommendations to the Executive in due course. The report sets out draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Task & Finish Group.

## **Wokingham Borough Council - Overview and Scrutiny**

### **Litter Bins - Task and Finish Group**

#### **Terms of Reference**

To review the Council's existing policies and procedures relating to the provision and emptying of litter bins across the Borough and make recommendations for improvement.

1. To consider the Council's current approach to the provision and emptying of litter bins.
2. To consider the detailed evidence from the 2023 public consultation on changes and potential savings relating to Street Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance services.
3. To consider the views of local stakeholders – residents, community groups and Town and Parish Councils.
4. To consider evidence from the Council's contractors.
5. To consider opportunities for improved partnership working with Town and Parish Councils.
6. To consider examples of best practice across the country.
7. To consider potential campaigns to support behaviour change to prevent litter and increasing Anti-Social Behaviour enforcement (e.g. fixed penalties for littering).
8. To consider opportunities for commercial sponsorship of litter bins – e.g. shops and food outlets.
9. To produce a final report to the Executive with recommendations for improvement.

#### **Proposed Witnesses**

- WBC Executive Members and Officers;
- Residents and community groups;
- Town and Parish Councils;
- Best practice examples from other local authorities and the private sector;
- WBC's contractors;
- Specialist groups e.g. Keep Britain Tidy.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

*The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.*

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Recommendations to the Executive	NA	NA
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	As above	NA	NA
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	As above	NA	NA

### Other Financial Information

No specific financial implications relating to the Task & Finish Group. However, its recommendations may lead on to financial impacts

### Public Sector Equality Duty

To be considered as part of the work of the Task & Finish Group

### Climate Emergency

To be considered as part of the work of the Task & Finish Group

### Reasons for considering the report in Closed Session

None

### List of Background Papers

None

<b>Contact</b> Neil Carr	<b>Service</b> Democratic Services
<b>Telephone</b> Tel: 0118 974 6000	<b>Email</b> neil.carr@wokingham.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank