

**KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S GROUP**

**Overview & Scrutiny Management Board
4th December 2007**

**Report Number C/19/07
Litter bin policy Scrutiny**

Report by Councillor Ray Parsons – Chairman of the scrutiny team

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To consider the following resolution from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board of the 9th October 2007:-

- The Litter Bin Task Group meet to decide whether the project remained relevant.

2.0 Financial, Staffing, Legal & Risk Implications

2.1 There are no staffing, financial, risk or legal implications arising out of this report.

3.0 Progress

3.1.1 At the last task group meeting Members had identified some key officers to interview to consider some of the issues. The officers present outlined the history of litter bin provision in the district including how litter bins fit in with the wider street cleaning agenda. Some particular issues were raised with regards to the provision of litter bins in villages and the powers parishes had for their provision. It was noted that:-

3.1.2 Parish Councils can buy their own litter bins and Kennet can impose a charge to collect them.

3.1.3 Kennet will provide on request a single domestic wheelie bin to rural parish councils for their own use and this is emptied free of charge.

3.1.4 If a parish sought additional bins Kennet would charge to empty them.

3.2 Following further questions about larger parishes it was noted that these are all subject to more frequent litter sweeping regimes and if littering is reported to Kennet we do respond to such requests to clean up within 12 hours.

3.3 Members also raised a query over the possibility of the provision of dog fouling bins. Officers confirmed that this is possible but it is very expensive to collect and dispose of because the waste has to be taken to specialist sites.

- 3.4 It was noted that the Implications of the 2005 Clean Neighbourhood Act had overtaken many of the concerns. Kennet now has greater powers of enforcement and litter hot spots such as fast food outlets are now responsible for waste around their outlets.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 Having considered the issues Members concluded that the issue of litter bins was only a very small part of the Street scene agenda and felt it inappropriate to continue to look at this issue in isolation. The task group also concluded that the key to this issue as with so many others was continued education on the subject to make people take more responsibility for their own waste. As such it was thought that a couple of quick wins could be a letter and/or leaflet sent to all parish councils and also an article in Kennet Times.

Recommendations

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT; the Board

- i) Agrees to discontinue the litter bin task group.
- ii) Recommends a couple of quick win educational activity to publish an article in Kennet Times and also send out a leaflet/newsletter to all the parish councils.

November 2007