

**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
15 DECEMBER 2022**

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**PUBLIC WASTE BINS TASK AND FINISH GROUP – FINAL REPORT**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To present the outcome and findings of the Public Waste Bins Task and Finish Group, established by this Scrutiny Committee to look at the current and future levels of service provided by the Council in relation to public waste bins and any particular issues which may be affecting the service.

**Summary**

2. At a meeting of the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee held on 27 October 2022 a draft Terms of Reference (Appendix 1) in relation to the service provided by the Council regarding public waste bins, was approved by the Committee and it was agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group. All Members of the Scrutiny Committee were invited to participate in the Review.
3. A meeting of the Task and Finish Group was held on 11 November 2022. A number of issues have been considered and discussed at the meeting and the notes of the meeting are attached (Appendix 2).

**Recommendation**

4. That the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee approve the following recommendations of the Public Waste Bins Task and Finish Group:-
  - (a) That the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee receives an update at a future meeting regarding the digitalisation of the service.
  - (b) That bin usage continues to be reviewed to ensure bins are appropriately placed.
  - (c) That the MyDarlington app is regularly promoted.

**Councillor Steven Tait  
Chair of the Public Waste Bins Task and Finish Group**

**Background Papers**

None

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S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Wellbeing	The initiative could have a positive impact on people's health and well-being.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no issues which this report needs to address
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	All Wards
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework
Key Decision	Not a key decision
Urgent Decision	Not an urgent decision
Council Plan	This report contributes to the Council Plan through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of services
Efficiency	The outcome of this report does not impact on the Council efficiency agenda
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

5. At the meeting of the Task and Finish Group on 11 November, Members held an in-depth discussion regarding the service provided by the Council in relation to public waste bins, this included the operating model for the service, staffing arrangements, bin sizes and locations and fly tipping.
6. We discussed the issues associated with staffing levels, in particular during the summer period and were informed of the arrangements that are in place to train other members of staff on the litter/dog bin route. We also discussed the digital system currently used to manage fly tips and Members felt that implementing this system to manage public waste bins would help address any staffing issues and increase capacity.
7. The group concluded that overall Members have a better understanding of the service provided by the Council in relation to public waste bins. The group acknowledged that resources are limited however were assured that the circumstances which led to bins not being emptied in the summer period, have been addressed.
8. The group have recommended that an update be provided at a future meeting of the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee regarding the digitalisation of the service and that bin usage continues to be reviewed to ensure bins are appropriately placed. Members also felt that the MyDarlington app should be regularly promoted to ensure residents are aware of the Report It function for reporting fly tips and full waste bins.

