



Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Public Waste Bin(s) Provision Policy

Foreword

Our policy is informed by and accords with the Government 's Litter Strategy for England, published in 2017 and associated guidance issued by the UK charity, WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme) - "Binrastructure – The right bin in the right place".

In implementing our policy, we intend to support the application of best practice in litter management education, enforcement, and infrastructure to deliver a reduction in litter and littering behaviour.

Nationally it is estimated that street cleansing costs local government over £1 billion a year. For BCP Council this figure is in the region of £3.9m per annum across our public spaces including roads, footpaths, parks & open spaces and seafront. It is not only the cost, which is an issue, litter is unsightly, reduces quality of life, discourages investment and visitors to our three towns as well as being detrimental to the wider environment as plastic especially, becomes part of the ecosystem, damaging species.

Responsible litter management must be a collective effort which is that the Council, our partners, businesses, visitors and our residents work together to achieve improvements through responsible collaborative behaviour for the benefit of Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole's environment for future generations.

This policy for transitioning and managing public waste bin provision across our three towns in the coming years is underpinned by our Corporate Plan.

Vision

Our place and environment

Vibrant places where people and nature flourish, with a thriving economy in a healthy, natural environment.

Ambition

Our communities have pride in our streets, neighbourhoods and public spaces

Focus areas:

- ✓ Ensure the BCP area has sufficient fit-for purpose waste infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces.
- ✓ Improve the cleanliness of our towns.
- ✓ Improve the accessibility and appeal of our beaches, parks and public spaces.

Councillor Andy Hadley

Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy

Content

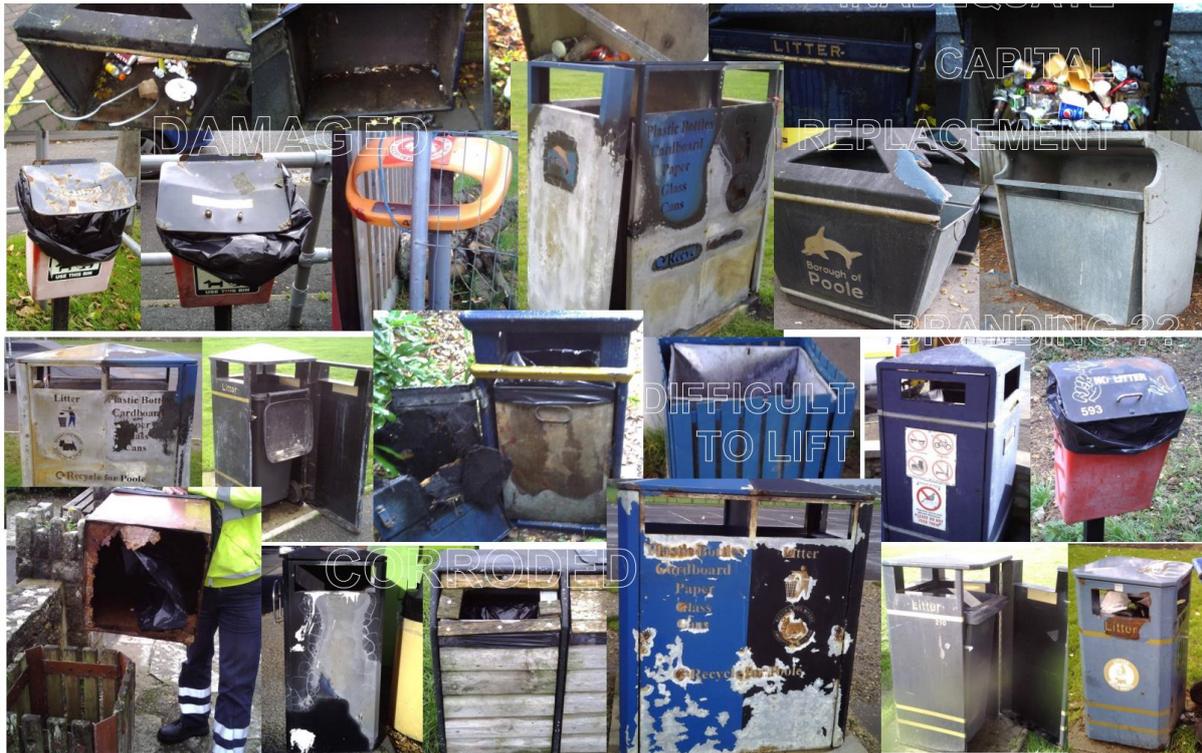
Introduction	3
Legal position	4
Policy principles	4
Policy context	5
Requests for new bins or bin relocations	5
Suitability of locations	5/6
Bin designs	6
Health & safety considerations	7
Usage & efficiency	7
Prioritisation criteria	8
Parks, countryside and other similar public spaces	9
Public events and seasonal waste demands	10
Specific waste streams	
Sale of public waste bins to stakeholders/advertisements	10

Introduction

Litter Bin Provision

Nationally the provision and siting of public bins have not, in the past, been a very strategic activity; Much like many local authorities BCP Council and its preceding four councils have placed litter bins because of requests from the public and elected members or based on past needs without keeping these under review.

This means that in the majority of cases, we are looking at improving local 'binrastructure'. A wide variety of makes and styles of litter bin have been installed throughout the three towns over the last 20 + years or so. Many of these bins are falling into disrepair and some are becoming a hazard both to users and also the staff responsible for emptying them with a good number of these bins now being in the wrong places.



Legal Position

BCP Council has no statutory obligation to provide litter and dog waste bins (public waste bins), but it does have a duty, as outlined by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the [Litter & Refuse Code of Practice](#), to keep Council-owned land and public highways free of litter and refuse as far as is reasonably practicable.

Under section 5 of the Litter Act 1983, a local authority in England and Wales may provide and may maintain in any street or public place receptacles for refuse or litter. The Highways Act 1980 provides a similar power to install refuse or litter bins in streets

Litter refers to waste disposed of "on the go," either placed in a public waste bin or discarded loosely in the environment, or as the result of an accidental escape from premises, domestic bins, etc. For the purposes of this framework, litter is generally distinct from household and commercial waste.

Fly tipping is addressed separately and will be managed according to existing procedures with WISE, the Council's contracted enforcement partner, and the Environment Agency. It should be noted, however, that there may be some overlap. Waste materials that are spilled from a household or commercial waste collection or are illegally disposed of by a business will enter the environment as litter.

The provision, maintenance, and emptying of public waste bins is managed by BCP Council as the primary method for addressing litter or dog waste issues prevalent in many areas. There are approximately 2,800 litter and dog waste bins of various types and sizes across the three towns, each with differing conditions and levels of serviceability. Some of these containers require manual emptying, which poses significant health and safety risks to our operatives due to their size, weight and current siting.

Policy Principles

This policy establishes the principles that will guide the future selection and installation of all public waste bins, the review of existing bin sites, and the application of appropriate bin designs in suitable locations.

Public waste bins will only be supplied, installed, maintained, or emptied on land for which BCP Council holds responsibility or if the landowner engages the Council to provide bin emptying services on their behalf. These services will be administered as a commercial arrangement.

The policy delineates the criteria that must be considered when deciding upon the installation of a public waste bin.

Policy Context

This policy outlines principles for:

- Identifying and assessing public waste bin placement in the three towns.
- Guiding decisions on future public waste bin locations.
- Ensuring correct bin size and type are aligned with demand.
- Complying with health and safety requirements for bin usage and collection.

Requests for new bins, or bin relocations

The Council's capacity to provide public bins is finite. It is likely that the demand for public bins will, at certain times or locations, exceed the capacity to provide the service. The provision of this service depends on sufficient resources to manage, maintain, and service the bins.

All requests for new bins must be submitted using an online form including indicating on a map the desired location. A map of existing bins locations will be made available via the BCP website

The request must demonstrate the need for a public waste bin at the specified location and detail the nearest alternative public waste bin(s). BCP Council will evaluate the suitability of the requested location based on various factors. If the location is deemed unsuitable due to safety concerns or installation difficulties, an alternative location may be suggested.

This framework does not require public consultation on the installation, repositioning, or removal of bins in general. However, engagement may be appropriate in certain situations, such as when bins are proposed near residential areas.

Complaints regarding provision and positioning will be managed in accordance with BCP Complaints Procedure.

Suitability of Location

Due to the costs associated with installing, maintaining, and emptying bins, we will comprehensively assess all requests for new or replacement bins according to the criteria outlined below:

- Care must be taken to ensure that litter bins do not impede pedestrian flow and take into account the particular needs of wheelchair users and access for prams, etc.. A minimum footpath/shared surface width of 2m must be maintained
- The suitability of the location, including the necessity to reduce street clutter, especially in sensitive areas such as Conservation Areas and near listed buildings.

- Suitability of location and associated vulnerability to terrorist activity, particularly as a resource to exploit.
- The extent of the litter or dog waste problem - will the bin make a positive impact on reducing litter, or can this issue be more effectively addressed through other means, such as enforcement?.
- The number, capacity, and location of existing bins in the area.
- Accessibility considerations for disabled individuals.
- The cost of installation.
- The expenses incurred for emptying the bin, particularly in remote areas where transportation costs can be disproportionately high.
- Potential encouragement of undesirable behaviours, such as rubbish dumping, due to the placement of a public waste bin.
- Operational efficiency.
- Health and safety concerns associated with servicing public waste bins.

Bin Design(s)

A range of bin types may be deployed across the three towns considering the following:

- Available budget (funding source)
- Size of public waste bin versus usage / demand
- Standard bin type: 240lt post-mounted wheelie bin (except in town centres, conservation areas, or where planning conditions apply).
- Above-ground bins, if not post-mounted, will house wheelie bins and are built to endure high-pressure public spaces with unrestricted access.
- Where wheelie bin housing is provided consideration will be given to the material type due to significant risk of corrosion in coastal locations.
- Introduction of underground public waste bin innovation Underground Refuse Storage Systems (URS systems) allow for greater quantities of refuse to be stored underground, with a visible 'refuse point' or 'waste inlet' above ground. These refuse points vary in design from traditional 'litter bin' styles to more modern designs. Refuse points can be designed to facilitate multi-stream recycling. *The Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh provide one UK example of how over 200 communal litter bins have been replaced by 16 larger underground within a public area.*
- The Council will adopt a consistent design and colour for public waste bins to enhance the image. Future locations for public waste bins will be selected based on specific criteria and guiding principles.



Health and Safety Considerations

- The positioning of collection vehicles must comply with highway road traffic law and must not unnecessarily impede the flow of traffic. For example, vehicles should not stop at crossing points or obscure junctions.
- When bins are installed in public spaces such as parks or nature reserves, the collection vehicle must have a suitably constructed and accessible surface to reach the bin, including a turning circle if required, to prevent driving on landscaped areas.
- The distance between the collection vehicle and the public waste bin must be minimised to avoid unnecessary manual handling—within 10 metres and not involving steep inclines/declines, steps, or other obstructions.
- Manual handling and the risk of collection staff encountering public waste bin contents should be minimized whenever possible.
- Bin positions must not impede accessibility or the free movement of users. A minimum of 2 metres of clear pavement is required for pedestrians, and sufficient space must be available for wheelchair users, mobility vehicle users, and prams.

Location Type	Bin Design	Colour
3x Town Centre, district centres & conservation areas	Metal housed wheelie bin	Black, Blue or Green respecting local heritage. BCP branded
Seafront and exposed coastal locations	Recycled plastic housed wheelie bins, post mounted wheelie bins; or 1100 litre wheelie bins	Black BCP branded
Destination heritage parks	Metal housed wheelie bins	Black, Blue or Green respecting local heritage. BCP Branded
Open spaces, residential, transport hubs and industrial areas	Post mounted wheelie bins	Black BCP branded

Final design and manufacture specification will be subject to a procurement exercise.

Usage and Efficiency

The Council aims to enhance the effectiveness of individual waste bins through a systematic program of removal and replacement, utilizing larger capacity bins where necessary or integrating separate dog waste and public waste bins into a single unit.

Changes to the management of public waste bins will be determined by two key factors: usage patterns by the public and the efficiency of servicing these bins.

Where practicable and financially viable the use of underground bins will be considered as the volume of waste which can be stored underground is generally higher, the frequency of collection may be reduced, and smart technology such as sensors can also be used to increase efficiency. Consideration must be taken for the full framework of costs involved in this type of bin infrastructure, which necessitates not only the initial ground works for installation but may also require new or adapted collection vehicles and staff training.

To optimise efficiency, dog waste will be collected as part of mixed waste within public waste bins. Dedicated dog waste bins will no longer be installed, and existing ones will be gradually phased out through a scheduled program, in accordance with broader framework requirements.

In cases where the volume of collected waste is consistently low and infrequent collection is necessary; the bin may be relocated to sites with higher demand.



Prioritisation Criteria

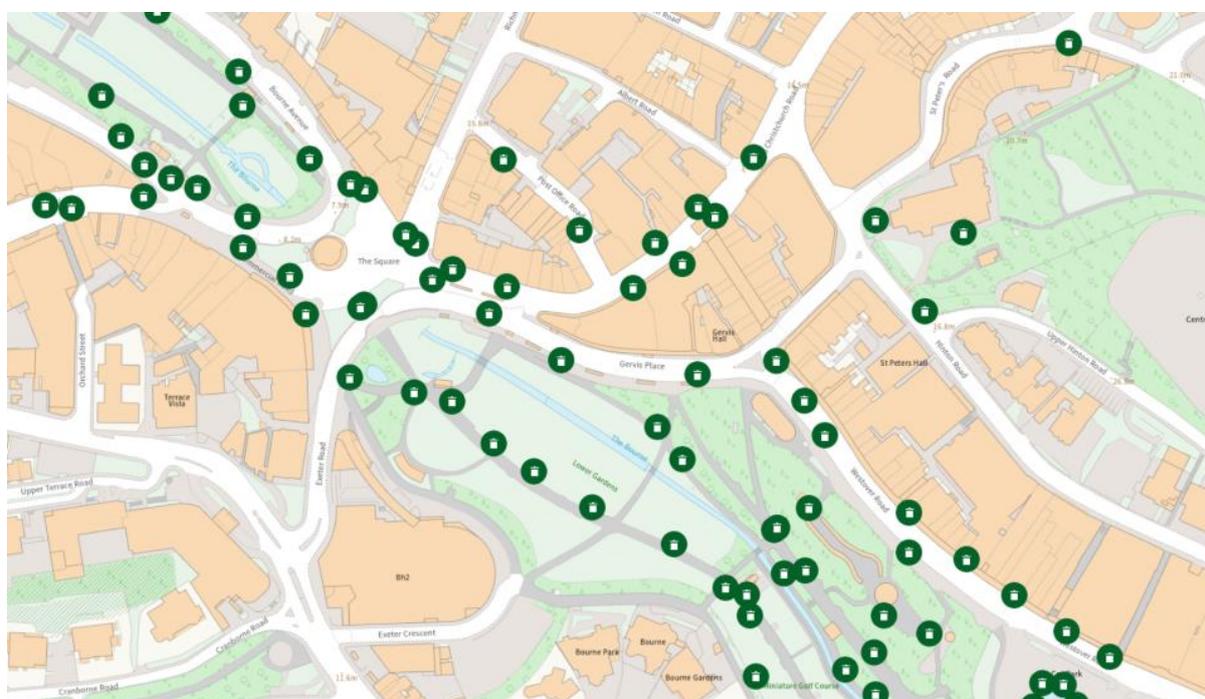
It is not possible to specify sites which will or will not receive public waste bins, as each request will be assessed based on defined criteria once adopted. However, the following areas are typically considered high priority for public waste bins:

- Main arterial routes and other high footfall areas
- Main areas of commerce and retail such as town and district centres
- Key routes in relation to secondary schools
- Proximity to clusters of fast food and takeaway retailers
- Public transport hubs (e.g., high usage bus stops and similar areas) where large numbers of people stand for periods of time
- Entrances to parks, cemeteries, play spaces, and significant public spaces

- Seafront promenades and primary entrance/exit locations
- Areas where dog waste collection reduces the risk of damage to the environment and designated conservation sites

The following areas are generally not considered high priority for public waste bin placements, or may be excluded from public waste bin placement:

- Exclusively residential areas, except where these become high priority due to one of the reasons outlined above
- Locations where public waste bins are misused, including inappropriate disposal of household or commercial waste which has not been resolved by engagement or enforcement
- Sites subject to persistent arson or vandalism



Graphic extract of existing public bin mapping data held

Parks, countryside & other similar public spaces

Installing public waste bins in parks, playgrounds, and greenspaces poses efficiency and safety challenges. It is beneficial to encourage users to dispose of waste at strategic points, typically entrances and exits. This allows for safe servicing without driving into and across greenspaces and reduces the distance operatives must walk while handling bins particularly heavy bins used to dispose of dog waste. Future installations must consider these factors.

It is not uncommon for natural greenspaces across the country to not have any public waste disposal facilities to protect and keep wildlife that live amongst it safe, instead users are asked help to keep the area litter-free and take all rubbish home with them including dog waste.

Public events & Seasonal waste demands

The provision of temporary additional public waste bins may be considered at specific locations to reflect increased pedestrian flows and litter generation at certain times, e.g. during public events, seasonal seafront, open spaces footfall peaks.

BCP Council requires event organisers to manage their own waste, providing and regularly emptying internal bins, while the council may supply external bins (e.g., general waste and recycling). Organisers must manage waste effectively by arranging their own bin provision and regular emptying, including litter picking, to prevent buildup.

Specific Waste Streams

Recycling on the Go

A significant portion of the waste in public bins has the potential to be recycled. Recycling this waste would benefit the environment and reduce waste disposal costs.

The Council may consider installing dual compartment recycling bins, with one side designated for recyclables and the other for non-recyclables, in strategic locations such as Town Centre high streets, parks, and leisure areas.

Clear signage will indicate which compartments should be used for different types of waste. If operatives find that the recycling compartment is contaminated when emptying these bins, the waste will be rejected and treated as residual waste instead.

We will monitor the usage of street recycling bins to assess their effectiveness. Bins that are consistently contaminated and misused may be relocated to more suitable sites.

Sale of public waste bins to stakeholders/advertisements

Large commercial organisations within the three towns may be interested in purchasing public waste bins to be installed outside their premises, particularly if they are significant waste producers, such as fast food restaurants.

The possibility of advertising for these businesses could be explored in the context of 'working in partnership with BCP Council to improve the local environment'. This initiative could also represent a revenue opportunity through ongoing advertisement Opportunities would be considered in line with BCP Council's Advertising Policy.

