

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 9

meeting date: TUESDAY, 13 MARCH 2018  
title: WHALLEY DOG WASTE TRIAL  
submitted by: JOHN HEAP – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: ADRIAN HARPER – HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider the success of the trial of dog waste collection from litter bins by refuse staff.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – To ensure best use of council resources in the provision of parking.

### 2 BACKGROUND

In September 2015 a trial was initiated, at Members behest, of the public using litter bins to deposit their bagged dog waste and then be collected by the refuse department as part of their normal rounds.

This scheme is not intended to replace the existing systems that are in place for dog bins, as many of those bins are placed in areas that are inaccessible for the refuse vehicles but popular with dog walkers.

24 litter bins were used all around the Whalley area. Children play areas did not form part of the trial.

### 3 ISSUES

3.1 Concerns were originally expressed about the difficulties in cleaning the Refuse Collection Vehicles and the increased threat to the health and safety of the refuse loaders handling the mixed waste.

Concern was also expressed about the location of the litter bins being used for the trial. The concern was the smell from the bins and the potential proximity of the bins to food outlets, playgrounds and seating areas.

Furthermore the above would depend upon the temperatures of the summer weather and the number of times the bins were emptied.

### 4 Conclusion:

Due to the particularly poor summers since the trial started the trial was extended until now.

There have very few complaints from the refuse crews about collecting the mixed waste and the cleaning of the vehicles was less onerous and hazardous than was at first thought.

There were no complaints from the public about the mixed waste being in litter bins or indeed any smells emanating from them.

There is presently a push to extend the practise to the remaining parts of the borough.

Therefore a decision must be made without the benefit of a successful trial. There is no way of judging the complaints that we might receive when the weather eventually warms up. However, a number of other councils do take dog waste in their litter bins, albeit they collect it differently.

#### 4. **RISK ASSESSMENTS**

The approval of this report may have the following implications:

Resources – None

Technical, Environmental and Legal – None

Political – None

Reputation – None as other district councils have adopted this way of working or are in the process of adopting it.

#### 5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Members approve the practise of depositing dog waste into litter bins for the entire borough and its collection by refuse vehicles.

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For further information please ask for Adrian Harper on 01200 414523.

REF: Adrian Harper Community Services 11.10.16