

S30. Litter Bins and Street Cleansing Performance

The committee considered a report by the Acting Director of Development Services which provided an update on the performance of litter bins servicing and street cleansing as discussed at Scrutiny Committee on 9 September 2021. The report brought details of existing service provision and performance, of financial information relative to the service provided; and of the impact of Covid-19 on service delivery for the year 2020/21.

Members noted the historical issue of littering and the various reasons as to why it persists – they highlighted the difficulty of catching those littered whilst having an overarching issue of deterrence. Members agreed that greater discussions should be held on how to deter individuals from lettering and address those who were caught.

The Roads & Grounds Manager clarified that rubbish in bins was not recycled and was placed in a landfill. Discussions were ongoing on how to separate waste at source, as seen in some locations with separate bins for different materials, however, emphasised these talks were in early stages. The Acting Director of Development Services explained the added pressure that non-recycling puts on the Waste Service – the volume had increased by 7,000T amounting to a cost of over £700,000 in gate fees and landfill taxes. The Litter Strategy was central to improving this as it promoted the importance of reducing litter to the public as well as working with communities and schools. In terms of carbon reduction, Mr Duff emphasised that litter was an important demonstration of the carbon problem and by filling landfills with waste, it would only worsen therefore aligning the Litter Challenge and Climate Challenge would be essential in the future.

The committee referred to previous initiatives at primary schools to teach children about recycling and questioned if there were any plans to reinstate this. Members then referred to a specific programme which allowed children to see the different types of litter and learn how the process of recycling works. Mr Neill stated he would refer to the Waste Manager for more information. Mr Duff referred members to the Facebook Page, 'Take Pride in Falkirk', which highlighted the ongoing work with community groups, schools and others in terms of the Litter Strategy.

Following a question on how best to dispose of litter in terms of allowing machines to properly recycle waste, the Roads & Grounds Manager stated he would refer to the Waste Manager for further information.

Decision

The Scrutiny Committee:-

- (1) noted the report on the performance of the Service in relation to the servicing of litter bins and street cleansing.**