



## membership resources

Briefing 20-83

October 2020

### **‘The Right Bin in the Right Place’ - WRAP Guidance to English Local Authorities and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) on the design, number and location of public litter bins and other items of street furniture designed to capture litter (October 2020)**

This briefing is relevant to English Local Authorities but the advice it contains will be useful to all UK Authorities who are responsible for the provision and emptying of litter bins.

The information in this briefing highlights the advice contained within the recently published guidance document published by WRAP to which APSE contributed information in the form of practical advice, research data and case studies.

#### **Key Issues:**

- WRAP have produced a guidance document which aims to help local authorities to not only manage their *‘binrastructure’* more effectively, but through the adoption of supportive education and enforcement programmes reduce the incidents of littering and the actual presence of street litter.
- The guidance document provides highlights practical case studies where this guidance has shown to be effective.
- The guidance document is aimed to support both the aims of the National Litter Strategy 2017 as well as the legal requirements of the Code of practice on Litter and Refuse.

#### **Background**

The Litter Strategy for England 2017 outlines the Government’s plans and intentions to reduce levels of litter and the act of littering through the development and supporting of *‘best practice in education, infrastructure and enforcement’*.

There is a widely held view that littering is increased by the lack of street litter bins, or where present, damaged or dirty litter bins.

The guidance referenced in this briefing note, <https://wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Right%20bin%20in%20the%20Right%20Place%20Final.pdf> is provided to allow relevant litter bin providers to have information as to where best to locate bins in order for them to have the maximum impact with regards to promoting their use, and ultimately to reduce the levels of littering and litter on the street .

Within the guidance document there is advice on a wide range of considerations at how best to manage an organisations litter bin-stocks and their locations, referred to as the '*binfrastructure*'.

Clearly the days of simply placing litter bins out at random are numbered, due to the costs involved and the resources needed to empty them. Therefore, according to the guidance a strategy which includes not only the bins themselves (auditing of litter bins, current locations, assessment of need etc.) is crucial. But as well as the practical provision of litter bins, the strategy needs to include an education, awareness-raising and enforcement element as part of the overall binfrastructure strategy, so that a more comprehensive impact can be made on reducing litter levels.

The guidance also considers where the advice fits in with legal requirements in that it is not to be considered as part of the *Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse*, but rather should be seen as providing examples of good practice and suggestions on practical approaches that will allow a more tailored approach to local needs.

Other areas of consideration within the guidance document include bin design and new technologies as well as the practicalities of bin installations. Included within this advice are helpful case studies where some of the guidance is already in place and successful. Linked to this is the importance of street scene design and how this can play a major part in preventing litter.

Obviously when trying to address the problem of littering as an occurrence, there is a need to consider the most common types of litter and why they are dropped. The guidance has a great deal of detail in this area which local authorities will find useful in helping them to develop not only their litter bin provision, but also where they may need to concentrate their education and enforcement resources

There is also advice and practical examples on how to address the problem of dog fouling, highlighting the most successful approaches in reducing its presence on England's streets.

The final part of the guidance, and perhaps the most critical with regards to the sustainability of providing binfrastructure, and the associated education and enforcement programmes, is

the need for monitoring and evaluating any actions taken. The guidance provides up to date advice on the techniques available and case studies of where some of the suggested approaches have been successfully implemented.

### **APSE Comments**

The provision of street litter bins and the need to record numbers, identify known locations, consider the practicality of design and maintenance as well as the monitoring of their effectiveness, is crucial when considering the cost of purchasing and servicing these resources

As a contributor to this long-awaited document, APSE hopes that local authorities will find the information contained within the guidance document useful in terms of managing and maintaining their local binfrastructures.

In contributing information to this document APSE has used data provided by its local authority members which it collected via its State of the Market surveys and network query responses.

The suggestion of a holistic strategy is something APSE has long advocated, as without the support of an effective education / awareness raising and enforcement element, the provision of bins alone, is unlikely to reduce the act of littering and street scene litter levels.

The final comment is supportive of WRAP'S aim to achieve a 'sustainable resource-efficient economy', in that by considering recycling on the go bins, the procurement of bins made from recyclable materials and reducing the frequency and resources needed to empty bins through the adoption of smarter technology, then a local authority's binfrastructure strategy can become sustainable and cost-effective in the long-run.

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