


24. RUBBISH BINS IN LOCAL PARKS AND RESERVES



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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This report is a response to a Council resolution passed at a Council Meeting on 12 May 2010:
 - (a) *That staff urgently report back on the potential reinstatement of the 158 rubbish bins that were removed from local parks/reserves as part of the Nov/Dec 2009 evaluation.*
 - (b) *That the Christchurch City Council develop a clear policy on the placement and servicing of bins in local parks.*
 - (c) *That the Christchurch City Council consider as part of the Annual Plan process a minimum level of service for provision and servicing of rubbish bins in local parks/reserves .*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In November and December 2009 an evaluation of litter bins throughout the city's urban parks and reserves was undertaken. The purpose of the review was to ensure litter bins were placed in the most effective locations and well utilised by park users.
3. There were 1,362 litter bins in urban parks at the time of the review of which 158 bins were subsequently removed over the February/March period. The reasons they were removed were either the bins were consistently empty or they were being used for disposal of domestic rubbish (e.g. TVs, couches, mattresses, etc). Concerns were raised by elected members and members of the public about this action.
4. The total annual cost to maintain and service urban parks litter bins is \$504,000 per annum (\$370 each per annum). Of the 158 bins removed, seven have since been reinstated.
5. The level of service specified in the current LTCCP is: *"rubbish bins clean, emptied, serviceable and surrounding loose litter removed. Frequencies will vary based on seasonal demands, minimum weekly."*
6. The introduction of the expanded kerbside recycling system has resulted in a 20 per cent reduction of household rubbish deposited in parks and reserves bins.
7. There has been no measurable increase in loose litter since the bins were removed.
8. The last time a review such as this was undertaken was in August 2005, since this review over 300 additional bins have been added to the parks asset inventory.
9. This report recommends that the bins which were removed are reinstated if it is demonstrated that there is a need for rubbish bins catering for the users of the park or reserve.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. Funding for the maintaining and servicing of litter bins has been allowed for in the Council's 2009–19 LTCCP.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

11. Yes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

12. Litter Act of 1979, Section 9.

Receptacles to be provided in public places

- (1) Every person, public authority, and Department of State shall at all times provide and maintain in every public place under his or its control or management where litter is likely to be deposited, such number of litter receptacles of suitable construction and design for the temporary deposit of litter as may reasonably be necessary to keep the place free from litter.

13. Section 15

Deposit of litter in public place or on private land

- (1) Every person commits an offence ...who deposits any litter or, having deposited any litter, leaves it—
 - (a) in or on a public place; or
 - (b) in or on private land without the consent of its occupier.

14. Reserves Act 1977, Section 94

Offences on reserves

- (1) Every person commits an offence against this Act who, without being authorised...
 - (j) Deposits or throws on any reserve (being a reserve which is not a public place within the meaning of section 2 of the Litter Act 1979) any substance or article of a dangerous or offensive nature or likely to be of a dangerous or offensive nature or any rubbish, except in a place or receptacle approved or provided by the Minister or the Commissioner or the administering Body...

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

15. Yes.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

- 16. Volume One, Pages 119 Neighbourhood Parks, 121 Sports Parks and 129 Cemeteries. The level of services specified is, *rubbish bins clean, emptied, serviceable and surrounding loose litter removed. Frequencies will vary based on seasonal demands, minimum weekly.*

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

- 17. The reduction in the number of litter bins does not impact on Council's Levels Of Service.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

18. Litter Strategy

The recommendations of this report are aligned with the Litter Strategy. This strategy focuses on the Council's role in creating an environment that encourages residents, workers and visitors to demonstrate pride in the city by taking personal responsibility for not littering streets, parks and public places.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

19. Yes.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

20. No consultation has been carried out in preparing this report.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Reinstate any of the bins recently removed if it is demonstrated that there is a need for a rubbish bin catering for the users of the park or reserve.
- (b) Adopt the draft policy attached.

BACKGROUND (THE ISSUES)

21. In November and December 2009, a review of urban parks litter bins location and utilisation was undertaken. As a result of the review, bins that were infrequently used or regularly filled with household rubbish were considered for removal. At the time of the review, there were 1,362 litter bins in urban parks. Servicing costs totalled \$504,000 per year.
22. To refurbish and reinstate the removed 154 litter bins would cost \$64,180.00 and incur an ongoing servicing cost of \$56,980 per year. The reduction in servicing costs would be directed to addressing other maintenance issues.
23. The introduction of the expanded kerbside recycling system has resulted in a 20 per cent reduction of household rubbish deposited in park litter bins. Currently, 40 per cent of litter removed from parks bins is household rubbish.
24. Although 158 rubbish bins have been removed, the Council's level of service has not changed. The level of service is based on service frequency and maintenance standards, not the number of bins provided. Litter is removed from reserves each time the contractor staff visits (at least weekly). There has been no measurable increase in loose litter since the bins were removed.
25. The removal of the bins was regarded as an operational issue and therefore was not referred to Council or Community Boards prior to removal. Since removal, staff have reinstated 7 bins where monitoring showed that there was a need for a bin to cater for the users of the park or reserve.
26. The last major review of litter on urban parks bins was under taken in August 2005 since then over 300 bins have been added to the parks asset inventory
27. There have been concerns raised by elected members and members of the public regarding the decision to remove litter bins from urban parks and in particular the lack of policy or guide lines in relation to this. In order to bring clarity to this issue, a draft policy is detailed in **Attachment 1** to this report. This policy (once adopted) will be used to inform future Annual Plans/LTCCP.

THE OBJECTIVES

28. To ensure compliance with litter legislation and the provisions of the 2009/2019 LTCCP.

29. THE OPTIONS – LITTER BIN REMOVAL/RE-STATEMENT

Option A - Replace Removed Litter Bins.

Refurbish and reinstate 154 litter bins removed from the cities urban park in February / March.
Cost - \$64,180 plus annual servicing costs of \$57,000.

Option B - Staff continue to monitor the sites (where the bins were removed) for litter and take action where there is a clear need to provide a bin for the users of the park or reserve.
Cost – \$525 Installation and refurbishment, \$370 annual servicing costs per bin.

Staff preferred option is Option B.

30. THE OPTIONS – POLICY

Option A – Adopt the attached draft policy for immediate implementation.

Option B – Amend the attached policy.

Staff preferred option is A.