

Dear Parish/Town Council

As part of changes to the Councils street cleansing contract in 2025, the Council's waste team were tasked with carrying out a review of all the districts litter bins which fall under this new contract, (not including litter bins within parks or open spaces – this is a separate piece of work). This has been carried out to ensure the services are carried out efficiently and effectively on a needs basis. In November 2023, the Councils Executive (Cabinet) approved a reduction in litter bins across East and North Hertfordshire to reduce council spend by improving the efficiency of the emptying services. Litter bins have been reviewed on a case by case basis depending on the qty of bins and requirements of the individual area, so the remaining number of bins in each parish or ward will vary.

We view litter bins as an important and essential part of our service to provide a clean, safe, and pleasant environment for all to enjoy. Without them it has the potential to contribute negatively to the aesthetic of the area, which directly affects the perception of residents, neighbours, the wider community, and visitors to our district. However, in some circumstances litter bins provide little or no advantage to an area and in others may even attract more litter and dumping than if they had not been present. Each litter bin across the area is on a schedule to be emptied, and we can request our contractor carry's out an ad-hoc clearance if a bin is reported to be overflowing. This predetermined schedule is produced using parameters such as on footfall, location, volume of usage and in some scenarios seasonality depending on the location of the bin.

As such, the main aim of the review was to ensure that our litter bins are positioned in the most appropriate location to capture litter, where there is high footfall or place of congregation (such as busy bus stops), and whilst acknowledging that other more out of town and rural areas may still require a litter bin in some locations, it has been determined that the quantity currently located in some areas is over and above the need. This has led to an uneconomical & inefficient service.

The waste team have audited all of our litter bins, measured their suitability against a set criteria; based broadly on location, requirements of the area, and qty of bins already located in the vicinity, and identified those that can be removed without any likely negative impact on the surrounding area.

In some circumstances we will look to reduce the number of smaller bins and replace with a larger bin with the same, or in some cases more capacity, we are also looking to relocate some litter bins to a more suitable location to enable it to be more useful and capture more litter in the area.

A workshop was held with Councillors from both East & North Herts Council, explaining the rationale and guidance used to support the project, and further information is available on this if required.

We are looking to commence the final stage of the project in the coming months, removing those that have been identified, or revising the type & size of bins to suit the area better. We would like to give this opportunity to the parishes and town councils that are likely to see a reduction of litter bins of 30% or greater, to contact us by 8th November if they have any particular concerns over a specific bin/s, which we will be happy to discuss further. However, it has been agreed that there will be a significant reduction in litter bins, and the team have been tasked for this to be completed by early next year.

Over the coming months you will therefore start to notice the removal, exchange or resighting of bins. Where bins are being relocated, residents within 10m of the new location, will be informed. We will of course continue to monitor the use of bins to ensure the frequency of emptying is being managed.

To re-confirm this project does not cover park or greenspace litter bins, or dog waste bins.

If you have further questions, or wish to discuss the proposals please do not hesitate to contact us by email: wasteandrecycling@north-herts.gov.uk

Shared Waste Team

