



Regulatory Committee

15th June 2023

Subject: Abandoned Shopping Trolleys - Schedule 4 Update and Review

Report by:

Director – Change Management, ICT & Regulatory Services

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To provide an update on the Schedule 4 scheme to date and set out the proposed approach to consultation.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Committee are asked to:

- a) Note the progress of the scheme to date.
- b) Agree that the proposals for consultation are approved to take place for a 4 week period commencing Friday 23rd June 2023.
- c) Subject to agreement of (b), agree that a further report be brought back to Regulatory Committee in September to provide the outcome of the consultation and recommend a course of action for the scheme's future.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

The Council adopted this schedule at a meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee on the 1st of May 2018 and it came into effect on the 17th August 2018.

The provision for adopting this schedule is provided with the Environmental Protection Act 1990, schedule 4.

The legal requirements as stated in the Act have been complied with. Previous legal challenges in other areas of the country have not been upheld.

Financial :

This report asks for approval to continue the scheme to collect abandoned shopping trolleys. The main income from this scheme is in the form of charging for each trolley recovered, claimed and paid for, and returned to store. The full charging schedule for the scheme is shown in appendix 1.

The table below details the income received in the last 5 years.

Financial Year	Income Collected
2018/19	£13,875
2019/20	£29,025
2020/21	£51,525
2021/22	£68,505
2022/23	£42,600
Total	£205,530

This income has supported the Street Cleansing service costs for collecting these trolleys. From 2023/24 a budget of £18.7k has been built into the Street Cleansing budget for each year. If this scheme was to be discontinued this would create an ongoing pressure of £18.7k pa on the Street Cleansing Service budget.

FIN Ref : FIN/11/24/RC

Staffing :

This function is delivered as part of the Council's ongoing street cleansing operation. Reporting of abandoned shopping trolleys is undertaken by both the street cleansing and enforcement teams.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

None noted

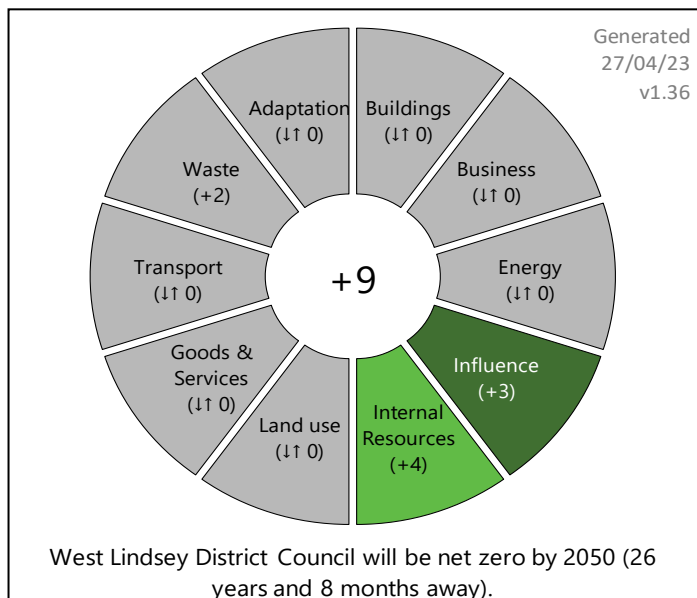
Data Protection Implications :

None noted.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

The clearance and return of the trolleys help to ensure that they can be reused for the intended purpose and reduces the volume that may otherwise end up as general waste for landfill.

The CESIA wheel below indicates that the scheme is having a positive impact on the climate for the Council. It is bringing in additional income for the Council, whilst at the same time ensuring that an environmental issue is addressed.



Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

Prior to the scheme, trolleys presented a general concern in regards to their volume and their use for activities that constituted anti-social behaviour. The collection of trolleys seeks to reduce this impact.

Health Implications:

Ensuring that the street scene is clear of trolleys contributes to the enhancement of the space within the area, which in turn helps it to be an aesthetically better place to be. Likewise, the collection of any abandoned trolleys is done in turn with other waste collection, which also contributes to this.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Schedule 4 Adoption – Initial report and decision.

<https://democracy.west-lindsey.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=176&MId=1736&Ver=4>

Risk Assessment :

Impact on resources: prior to the scheme this activity was undertaken using the Council's existing resources. The scheme seeks to reduce this risk by recovering the cost of the activity.

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has agreed to implement this scheme using its powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and it came into effect in August 2018 for the Gainsborough area.
- 1.2 The scheme was introduced to combat the persistent issue of abandoned shopping trolleys, which at the time were being collected at a rate of 30 per week.
- 1.3 The scheme is operated and managed by the Street Cleansing Team with support from Enforcement Officers.

2 Scope of the Scheme

- 2.1 The scheme seeks to make supermarkets more accountable and responsible for the trolleys that leave their premises and in turn provides a mechanism for the Council to charge for their recovery and return. Appendix A sets out the charging schedule.
- 2.2 The scheme does not provide a solution that resolves the issue of abandoned shopping trolleys, it provides a mechanism to recover the cost of clearing them, which in turn, should encourage supermarkets to take more steps to reduce the issue occurring.
- 2.3 Prior to the scheme being introduced the Council were collecting the trolleys and either storing or returning them at its own cost.

3 Governance

- 3.1 Under the legislation, the Local Authority has an obligation to consult about the operation of Schedule 4 and “to consult with the persons or representatives of persons who appear to the authority to be persons who will be affected by its application”.
- 3.2 This report sets out the process for consultation and the associated timescales.

4 Progress to Date

- 4.1 On immediate commencement of the scheme one of the key Gainsborough supermarkets took immediate steps to address the issue by amending the width of a gated access to remove the ability to take a trolley from the supermarket site. This was implemented alongside reinstating its trolley wheel security system. These actions have both had a positive impact on the issue.
- 4.2 However, the volume of trolleys collected is still relatively high and further contact will be made with the main supermarkets to look at what other measures could be introduced to reduce the issue. This is occurring now in advance of the consultation. The level of reporting in

relation to abandoned shopping trolleys specifically, remains very low, less than 5 per year although some may be reported as fly-tipping.

- 4.3 Since the introduction of Schedule 4, the following number of trolleys have been collected from the Gainsborough area:

Year	No. of trolleys collected
2018 (From August)	109
2019	373
2020	669
2021	789
2022	721
2023 (up to 31 st March)	98
Total	2759

- 4.4 The level of income achieved from the scheme to date is as follows, this equates to roughly £75 per trolley:

Financial Year	Income Collected
2018/19	£13,875
2019/20	£29,025
2020/21	£51,525
2021/22	£68,505
2022/23	£42,600
Total	£205,530

- 4.5 The income collected is used to cover the costs of delivering the service and supplement as required the Council's waste collection services.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 It is proposed that consultation takes place for a 4-week period commencing on Friday 23rd June 2023, subject to committee approval. It will therefore run until Friday 21st July 2023.

- 5.2 The consultation will require the Council to contact the main supermarkets within Gainsborough directly to seek their views. There will also be an online survey created for the public to provide their views.

- 5.3 The survey will seek to determine the following;

- Whether respondents believe that abandoned shopping trolleys are still a concern within Gainsborough.
- Whether respondents believe that the scheme should continue to be in place.
- Whether the charging schedule is appropriate

- 5.4 The results of the consultation will be brought back to Management Team for consideration in August 2023 and a decision scheduled on the schemes extension or alternative options that may arise from the consultation for the September 2023 Regulatory Committee.

6 Summary

- 6.1 The issue of abandoned shopping trolleys is still present in Gainsborough and the current collection rates are on average 12 -13 per week. The first quarter of 2023 has seen this number fall below an average of 10 per week.
- 6.2 This figure is a reduction of 62% since the implementation of the scheme. Whilst the number of trolleys collected in 2020/21 has increased, it is still less than the volumes that were being collected prior to the scheme of circa 30 per week.
- 6.3 Overall, it is believed that there is a clear rationale for the scheme continuing and the consultation process will help the Council to determine whether this should be the case.

END