



Regulatory Committee

14th September 2023

**Subject: Abandoned Shopping Trolleys - Future Scheme
Recommendations**

Report by:

Director – Change Management, ICT &
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Purpose / Summary:

To provide the results of the schedule 4 scheme consultation and propose the continuation of the scheme.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Committee are asked to:

- a) Note the results of the consultation carried out between 23rd June 2023 and 21st July 2023.
- b) Agree that the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Schedule 4 scheme relating to abandoned shopping trolleys in Gainsborough is continued and that the charges remain as shown in the schedule in appendix 1.
- c) Agree that Officers, in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee engage with the supermarkets in the area that are responsible for the largest volume of abandoned trolleys to ensure that they are aware of the outcome of the consultation and are taking steps to reduce the impact locally.
- d) Agree that the scheme is reviewed again by committee in 5 years' time, during 2028 and that an annual update is provided to Chairs Brief from 2024 onwards.

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:

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. 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/53/24/SSc/RG

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

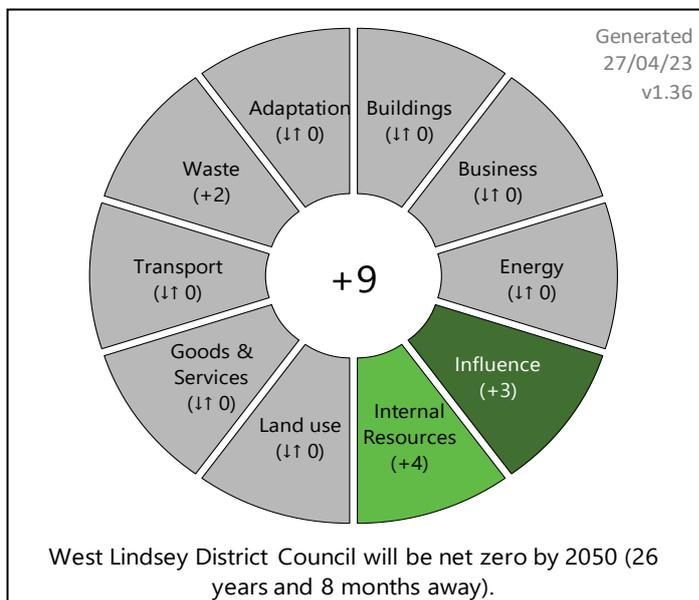
Data Protection Implications :

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 regard 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>

Schedule 4 Review Report 2023:

<https://democracy.west-lindsey.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=262&MId=3438&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 1 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 consultation has now been completed and the results included within this report.

4 Consultation Outcome

- 4.1 The Council undertook consultation on the matter between the 23rd of June and 21st of July 2023. The consultation was done via an online survey and was publicised via the Council’s social media. Promoted with all Councillors and local supermarkets were also contacted directly and given an opportunity to respond to the Council.
- 4.2 There was a significant degree of media interest in the consultation with both the written and tv media running articles on the story during the consultation.
- 4.3 The main results of the survey are shown below, and a copy of the overall results are shown in appendix 2.

- 132 responses were received.
 - 95% of these responses were from residents.
 - 75% of respondents believed abandoned shopping trolleys are an issue in Gainsborough.
 - 87% of respondents believed that the Council should continue the Schedule 4 scheme.
 - 62% of respondents agreed with the proposed charges. 22% believed they should be higher.
- 4.4 There was only one response to the survey sent directly to supermarkets. The responder was unsure if it was an issue, however they did support the scheme and the proposed charges.
- 4.5 Appendix 3 shows an overview of the main themes that were raised in the consultation and where appropriate a response have been provided to comments that have been made.

5 Summary

- 5.1 There is a clear desire for the Council to continue to deliver the scheme based on the response to the consultation.
- 5.2 The charge currently scheduled is believed to be appropriate and is proposed to remain the same.
- 5.3 It is proposed that officers, in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee seek to engage with the supermarkets in the area that are responsible for the highest volumes of trolleys to ensure that they are aware of the feedback given and that they are pressed to look at other solutions on the ground to reduce the volume of trolleys remove from the store.
- 5.4 It is proposed that the scheme is reviewed again in 5 years' time, during 2028, and that an annual update is provided to Chairs Brief from 2024 onwards

END

Appendix 1 – Charging Schedule

Appendix 2 – Consultation Results

Appendix 3 - Consultation Comments