

ABANDONED SHOPPING TROLLEYS

Cabinet - 5 December 2019

Report of	Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services and Chief Officer Financial and Trading
Status	For Decision
Also considered by	Cabinet - 5 December 2019
Key Decision	Yes

Executive Summary: The Advisory Committee is asked to consider a request from Swanley Town Council to adopt a scheme for the District to deal with abandoned shopping trolleys and then delegate that function to them for the Swanley Town Council area.

This report supports the Key Aim of the Council plan with respect to the environment.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Margot McArthur

Contact Officers Richard Wilson, Ext. 7262

Recommendation to Advisory Committee: That the Advisory Committee considers the request from Swanley Town Council that the District adopt a scheme to deal with abandoned shopping trolleys and that responsibility be delegated to them for the Swanley Town Council area, and makes a recommendation to Cabinet.

Recommendation to Cabinet:

To consider the recommendation of the Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee.

Introduction and Background

- 1 A formal request has been received from Swanley Town Council, dated 26.6.19 (attached) to be able to take action to introduce a scheme to deal with abandoned shopping trolleys in the Swanley Town Council Area.
- 2 A scheme can be adopted under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, section 99 and Schedule 4. This power can then be delegated to a Town or Parish Council under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 3 Swanley Town Council appears to be experiencing an increase in the number of shopping trolleys abandoned by residents around the Town. This is perceived to be less of a problem in other parts of the District, although no records are kept of the number of abandoned shopping trolleys that occur. It is apparent that people walk to Asda in Swanley and use the trolley to take shopping home without returning it.
- 4 If it is agreed to adopt a scheme under the Environment Protection Act 1990 it would have to be for the whole District.
- 5 Rules come into force three months after the resolution to adopt them.
- 6 Public notices need to be placed before adopting a scheme and there is a need for formal consultation. It would need to be determined the method for consultation but it may be advisable to write to supermarkets and publicise a general notice inviting comments.
- 7 The power is to seize and remove trolleys and serve a notice on their owner.
- 8 There is a power to charge for the return of trolleys.

Other Options

- 9 There is an existing, 'Trolleywise' voluntary scheme which involves public reporting of abandoned trolleys. Supermarkets can also adopt a 'coin return' system and some have a device where if a trolley is taken some distance away, the wheels lock.

Key Implications

Financial

There are no financial implications to this Council, although if a scheme was adopted there is the power to charge for the return of trolleys (Cost recovery).

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

The power to adopt a scheme is contained in the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 99, Schedule 4.

The power can be delegated to a Town or Parish Council under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The request to adopt this power and delegation to them for implementation in their area has only been received from Swanley Town Council. It is possible that if a scheme is adopted requests may be received to implement in other parts of the District by the District Council, or delegate the power to an individual Town or Parish Council.

If the Council adopted this power to implement itself, there is currently no resource identified to administer and enforce a scheme. A storage facility local to the supermarket concerned would also need to be identified.

It is perceived that this activity is less of a problem in other parts of the District.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Appendices Appendix A - Letter from Swanley Town Council
dated - 29.6.19

Background papers None

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