

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
THURSDAY 30 JANUARY 2014
UPDATE ON ABANDONED SHOPPING TROLLEYS
REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES
(Contact: Bob Lightfoot 01993 861731)

(Decisions on this matter will be recommendations to Cabinet)

1. PURPOSE

To provide members with an update on the abandoned shopping trolley policy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the report is noted and the current policy and approach is not changed at this time.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. In June 2012 a report to Members proposing changes to the existing abandoned shopping trolley policy was received and considered. It was agreed an update would be presented when sufficient information and data was recorded going forward (Environment Overview & Scrutiny 7th June 2012, Minute 11 refers)
- 3.2. Cabinet adopted a formal policy on the subject to ensure the Council complied with the Environmental Protection Act 1990. At the time members also wanted statistical data to support potential changes in the future. Accurate data has been recorded on the councils Dynamics system over the last year as shown in table 3.5.
- 3.3. Over the last 12 months the council has applied reasonable pressure on the retailers, and the majority of the abandoned trolleys have been removed within the timescales set out in the policy which is now 3 days, there has been, on a couple of occasions, the need to follow this up but as yet no formal enforcement has been necessary. However, our Customer Services team follow a set protocol when dealing with the retailers; initial contact is made with a company called Trolley Wise who act on behalf of the retailers to recover the trolley as soon as possible. Officers believe the system is working well and would not recommend any changes at this stage.
- 3.4. To date the council has only recovered a handful of abandoned trolleys, from dykes and obscure areas where Trolley Wise are not permitted to go, those that are identifiable have been returned to the retailer without charge, as this facilitates a good working relationship with them. Most of the retailers support the Council in the provision of recycling road shows, free use of land for recycling bring sites, and other community engagement events. However the Council does reserve the right to take enforcement action and apply such charges as set out in the council's policy, if it was deemed necessary.

3.5. In September 2012 the council began data capture -over the last 12 months a total of 36 valid reports, from 14 residents, relating to a total of 44 trolleys were received which equates to less than one trolley per week being reported throughout the entire district. Of this total, 12 reports related to trolleys that were abandoned on the Madley Park Estate, Witney.

3.6. The 44 abandoned trolleys are made up from the following retailers below:

Abandoned Trolleys September 2012 to September 2013

Sainsbury's	Waitrose	M&S	B&Q	Lidl	Aldi	Unknown
27	8	2	1	1	1	4

3.7. Based on the last twelve months, evidence shows that the number of trolleys being abandoned within the district is relatively small, and the current policy and management arrangements for recovery of trolleys is considered fit for purpose at this time. Should the current position change with an increase in abandoned trolleys or a reduction in cooperation from retailers then officers would implement a more robust approach as set out in the current policy.

4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

- 4.1. To continue with the status quo working positively with the retailers.
- 4.2. To continue to engage with the retailers further to encourage measures to prevent abandoned trolleys as far as possible
- 4.3. To take more robust approach and implement fixed penalties for each and every abandoned trolley.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any costs associated with implementing the policy will be met by the fees and charges already set out.

6. REASONS

To protect and enhance the environment of West Oxfordshire and maintain the district as a clean, beautiful place with low levels of crime and nuisance; and be recognised as a leading council that provides efficient, value for money services.

Claire Locke
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