

AGENDA 12, Enc xii) LITTER BIN UPGRADE PROGRAMME

1. Purpose of report

To seek Council's approval to adopt the Glasdon bin as the Town Council's standard litter bin, and to upgrade existing bins to this improved model on a phased, condition-led basis over a number of years.

To seek approval for a review of bin sizes and locations across the town, to ensure each upgraded bin is of sufficient capacity and in the right place.

To seek approval to make a formal request for County Councillors' Members' Local Improvement Scheme (MLIS) funding to upgrade the bins most in need in the wards where funding is currently committed.

2. Background

Many of the town's existing litter bins are in poor condition, with rust, damage and wear affecting both their appearance and their day-to-day use.

Proposals to upgrade the bins have been reported to Members through previous Officer updates. The Clerk has since negotiated a 10% discount with Glasdon on the cost of their bins.

It is important to note that this programme is an upgrade, not a like-for-like replacement. Each new bin represents a clear improvement in quality, appearance, durability and serviceability.

Because of the number of bins involved, the upgrade cannot be completed in a single year. This report asks Members to formally approve the approach so that upgrades can continue as funding becomes available.

3. The Glasdon bin – why it is an upgrade

The proposed standard bin is the Glasdon Jubilee 110. It is a genuine upgrade on the existing bins in three key respects: the material it is made from, how long it will last, and how easy it is to service.

- **Material.** Many of the existing bins are metal, which rusts once its paint is chipped or scratched, and with dogs doing what dogs do. The Jubilee is moulded from Durapol, a heat and impact resistant polymer developed by Glasdon. Durapol is self-coloured, so the colour runs through the material rather than being painted on. It will not chip or rust, and it never needs repainting. The upgraded bins will continue to use metal liners, which contain the contents of the bin.
- **Lifespan.** Because Durapol does not rust or need repainting, the upgraded bins are expected to have a considerably longer working life than the existing metal bins, which deteriorate steadily once rust takes hold. The door and locks contain no metal parts, so they are also free from corrosion. At the end of their life, the bins can be recycled.

The table below summarises the main differences.

	Existing bins	Glasdon Jubilee 110 (upgrade)
Material	Painted metal	Durapol – heat and impact resistant polymer, coloured through
Rust	Rusts once paint is damaged	Will not rust; door and locks have no metal parts

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	Existing bins	Glasdon Jubilee 110 (upgrade)
Appearance over time	Chips, fades and stains; needs repainting	Will not chip; never needs painting; easy to clean
Security	Varies by bin	Vandal-resistant three-point interlocking door
Flyposting and graffiti	Flat surfaces attract posters	Moulded ridges discourage posters and graffiti
Lifespan	Shortened by rust and wear	Considerably longer; recyclable at end of life

Once the programme is complete, the town will have a consistent, higher standard of bin that is:

- **More attractive** – a smart, uniform design that stays looking good and improves the town centre and neighbourhoods.
- **More serviceable** – easier and quicker for operatives to empty, clean and maintain.
- **Longer lasting** – rust-free materials that will serve the town for many years.



4. Reuse of existing liners

The liners from the existing bins are compatible with the new Glasdon bin. Where they remain in good condition, they will be removed and reused in the upgraded bins in the future.

The liners are durable and are expected to serve the Council well for many years. Reusing them reduces the cost of each upgrade, avoids unnecessary waste, and supports the Council's wider commitment to sustainability.

5. Review of bin size and location

Upgrading bins in their current form alone would miss the chance to fix bins that are too small, overflowing, or no longer in the right place.

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It is proposed that a review of bin sizes and locations is carried out by the Town Clerk and the Northumberland County Council Senior Team Lead, in consultation with Ward Councillors.

The review will take place once the new college has been open for a reasonable period. This will allow changes in footfall and litter patterns to settle, so decisions are based on clear trends rather than early assumptions.

6. Designing out grounds maintenance issues

Where bins are located in areas of soft landscaping, such as grass verges and open spaces, they will be installed on sunken concrete pads set level with the surrounding ground.

This allows mowers to cut right up to the edge of the pad, removing the strip of long grass that tends to build up around bins that cannot easily be reached. The result is a neater, better-kept appearance around every bin, less need for strimming/weed spraying, and easier access for operatives when emptying.

This approach designs out a long-standing grounds maintenance problem at the point of installation, rather than managing it afterwards.

7. Phasing and prioritisation

Bins will be upgraded in order of condition, with those in the worst state tackled first.

Upgrades will continue each year, as funding allows, until every bin in the town has been upgraded. This is expected to take a number of years.

Progress will be reported to Members through Officer updates.

8. Financial implications

County Councillors have committed funding towards the programme through their Members' Local Improvement Scheme (MLIS). The Clerk is grateful for this early indication of support for Bothal, Central, College and Haydon.

It is proposed that the Clerk works with County Cllrs to make a formal MLIS funding request to upgrade the bins most in need in the wards. The request will set out clearly how each bin represents an upgrade, in line with the scheme's requirements.

Where MLIS funding does not cover the full cost in any year, a contribution may need to be drawn from the Town Council's budget. Any such spend will be within approved budgets or brought back to Members for approval.

9. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- a) Approve the Glasdon Jubilee as the Town Council's standard litter bin, or like bins from this range where a different size is required.
- b) Approve the phased upgrade of all litter bins to this model over a number of years, prioritising bins in the worst condition.
- c) Approve a review of bin sizes and locations, to be carried out by the Town Clerk and the NCC Senior Team Lead in consultation with Ward Councillors, once the new college has been open for a reasonable period.
- d) Authorise the Clerk to work with County Cllrs to formalise the request for MLIS funding to upgrade the bins most in need in their wards.
- e) Note that a contribution from the Town Council's budget may be required in future years, to be agreed as part of budget.