

## **10. WBC LITTER BINS**

At the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Members discussed a request from Richard Bissett (WBC) that all parish and town councils consider agreeing to fund the litter bins within their parish which WBC are proposing to remove as part of its cost cutting exercise. The request had been made at a meeting between Richard Bissett and parish and town council clerks on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Councillors considered the proposal and raised several concerns, including some about the accuracy of the WBC asset map which had been used to identify the location of bins as part of the consultation. They were also concerned that WBC had confirmed that it was WBC's sub-contractor who had identified the bins recommended for removal, not WBC officers.

The Committee noted that Earley appeared to have a disproportionate number of litter bins nominated for removal compared to other towns and parishes, approximately 24% of the 150 bins identified were in Earley and would therefore incur a far higher bill for emptying such bins than would other towns and parishes.

Of significant concern was WBC's contract costs for emptying each individual bin (£533 per bin per annum; an approximate cost to ETC of £19,000 per annum), Members were of the view that these were excessive and appeared bloated. Members felt that litter bins in local areas were important and agreed that WBC should be looking at other ways to cut costs to ensure that funding remains available for essential services, such as the provision and emptying of litter bins.

### **Policy and Resources Committee – Recommendation**

*That Earley Town Council refuses the request from Wokingham Borough Council that the Town Council funds the emptying of the litter bins identified for removal in Earley.*

Members to discuss and to **RESOLVE** accordingly.