

**Date:** Thursday 27 June 2024  
**Time:** 10.00am  
**Meeting Room:** Reception Lounge  
**Venue:** Auckland Town Hall  
301-305 Queen Street  
Auckland

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## Tira Hautū / Governing Body

### OPEN ATTACHMENTS

ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS  
UNDER SEPARATE COVER

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## Memorandum

31 May 2024

**To:** All elected members

**Subject:** Litter Bin Optimisation, Programme Update

**From:** Taryn Crewe, General Manager Parks & Community Facilities

**Contact information:** taryn.crewe@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

## Purpose

1. To provide an update on the implementation of regional bin optimisation in response to the 2 May 2024 Governing Body resolution ([GB/2024/3](#)):

*That the Governing Body:*

*b) tono / request the Governing Body receive staff advice on the rubbish bin removal programme with a view to the replacement of rubbish bins where there is an obvious need, with a focus on town centres, high-use playgrounds, high-use local parks and reserve entry/exit points, including advice on any financial implications.*

## Summary

2. Bin optimisation has been completed in 16 local board areas, with 2,381 bins removed as of 10 May 2024. The project is now entering a consolidation and review phase.
3. Four local boards (Franklin, Manurewa, Papakura, and Rodney) allocated LDI opex as part of their annual work programme decision making to retain the existing level of service. No bins have been removed from these areas.
4. Aotea Great Barrier Island was not included in this project as it does not have any public litter bins.
5. A 30 per cent reduction in the number of bins across the region was set as a target, as part of the Annual Budget 2023/2024. This was expected to achieve around \$1.4 million in net opex savings per year, once fully implemented.
6. On completion of the removal programme, 23 per cent of bins across the region have been removed, representing a forecasted \$1.25 million net opex savings per year.
7. Implementation cost was \$436,000, which is significantly less than anticipated. Cost avoidance of approximately \$800,000 in the removal of existing bins was achieved through efficiencies identified through the procurement process. Full annual savings will be realised from FY2024/2025.
8. Staff are actively monitoring the effects of the change through maintenance audits and customer enquiry trends, as well as discussions with local boards. They are also ensuring that the effects of the change are sufficiently mitigated through adjustment to the schedule of loose litter collection and bin clearing undertaken by the full facilities contractors, where required and appropriate.
9. If emergent issues cannot be satisfactorily mitigated through contractor schedule adjustment, then relocation of bins and/or targeted reinstatement of removed bins in specific locations may be considered.

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10. Other factors such as events and summer busy periods are currently managed by the placement of temporary bins and increased maintenance visits, this will continue.
11. Management of the effects of bin removal, including localised bin reinstatement, will be managed by the Community Facilities Area Operations Managers in collaboration with local boards.

### Context

12. A reduction in the number of bins falls under optimisation or minor reductions of service that are required to be realised under the Chief Executive's delegations, as part of the Annual Budget 2023/2024. This was included in the Final Mayoral Proposal, published on 8 June 2023.
13. A 30 per cent reduction in bins across the region was set as a target. After assessment against the principles developed for removal, 23 per cent of bins have been removed. This will result in actual savings forecasted of \$1.25 million per year. The one-off cost of the removal project is less than \$300 per bin (including removal of concrete base if required). The total cost of removal for the region for this project is \$436,000.

**Table 1: Summary of regional bin removals**

Local Board	Local board Workshop information (June 2023)				Bins Removed as of 10 May 2024	
	Total	Keep	Remove	%	Total	Percentage removed
Albert-Eden	641	504	137	21%	131	20%
Devonport-Takapuna	538	372	166	31%	144	27%
Franklin	600	423	177	30%	0	0%
Henderson-Massey	509	241	268	53%	219	43%
Hibiscus and Bays	531	365	166	31%	156	29%
Howick	617	407	210	34%	211	34%
Kaipatiki	431	319	112	26%	92	21%
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	554	409	145	26%	163	29%
Manurewa	449	313	136	30%	0	0%
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	654	448	206	31%	205	31%
Ōrākei	572	428	144	25%	125	22%
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	496	294	202	41%	143	29%
Papakura	386	269	117	30%	0	0%
Puketāpapa	294	205	89	30%	88	30%

Local Board	Local board Workshop information (June 2023)				Bins Removed as of 10 May 2024	
	Total	Keep	Remove	%	Total	Percentage removed
Rodney	556	407	149	27%	0	0%
Upper Harbour	271	187	84	31%	82	30%
Waiheke	152	106	46	30%	27	18%
Waitākere Ranges	302	216	86	28%	80	26%
Waitematā	1239	805	434	35%	384	31%
Whau	445	309	136	31%	131	29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,237</b>	<b>7,027</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>2,381</b>	<b>23%</b>

**\*Note: Aotea Great Barrier was not part of this work as they have no rubbish bins.**

- The percentage of bins across each of the local board areas differs due to the principles adopted across the region. When applying the principles there was more capacity for reduction in some local boards than others, this is in part due to the inequitable distribution of assets across Auckland.
- The project has realised savings as noted above. The implementation costs are significantly less than anticipated. The cost avoidance of approximately \$800,000 in the removal of existing bins was achieved through efficiency identified through the procurement process.

### Principles for removal

- There were previously over 10,000 bins across the region. A set of principals was developed to identify bins that could be removed while minimising the impact of reduced bin numbers.
- The initiative to reduce the number of bins was founded on local experience in Regional Parks and on Aotea Great Barrier Island, as well as international studies that indicate that a reduced reliance on public rubbish bins does not result in increased incidents of loose litter.
- A UK study on waste reduction behaviours found that people are more consistent in recycling and reducing waste at home compared to other settings, like the workplace or during holidays. This consistency is attributed to having better access to recycling facilities and stronger pro-environmental identities at home.<sup>1</sup>
- Reducing the number of bins in parks encourages Aucklanders to uphold good environmental practices, by taking their refuse home for correct disposal. Additionally, reducing the reliance on public litter bins lowers maintenance costs and mitigates environmental pollution caused by overflow and scattered litter. Overall, taking rubbish home aligns with the waste hierarchy principles of reducing, reusing, and recycling, and fosters a culture of environmental responsibility.
- The focus was on removal of bins that are near each other, or in low usage areas. The bins proposed for removal were identified by Parks and Community Facilities Area Operations Managers based on the following principals:

1. [Waste Reduction Behaviours at Home, at Work, and on Holiday: What Influences Behavioral Consistency Across Contexts?](#) Lorraine Whitmarsh, Paul Haggard, Merryn Thomas, School of Psychology, Cardiff University, Cardiff, United Kingdom, Dec 2018.



- Natural settings where users are more likely to pack in / pack out their rubbish e.g., bush parks, wetland parks.
  - Lower use neighbourhood parks that are primarily activated by residents, or low use sections of parks.
  - Bins not co-located with other infrastructure in the streetscape.
21. Where possible to meet the reduction and savings targets, retention of bins has been prioritised in parks and public spaces that meet the following criteria:
- Assets which encourage users to spend extended periods of time e.g. shelters, toilets, suburb/destination scale playgrounds.
  - High rubbish producing activities e.g. popular dedicated dog parks, BBQs.
  - Destination sites e.g. popular beaches, community event centres, destination parks.
  - Bins co-located with other infrastructure in the streetscape e.g. bus stops.
22. Area Operations Managers have worked with local boards, using local knowledge and insights, to make sure the right bins are removed. Staff also shared the information with contractors to ensure there were no hotspots they were aware of where removal would cause an issue.
23. Some changes were made to the bins identified for removal to reflect the local board feedback received at workshops.
24. During our busy summer periods we work with our contractors and events teams to ensure there is adequate resource available to meet the needs of the community and service outcomes. This can include extra wheelie bins for high profile areas, working with events teams to ensure waste is removed off site as part of event conditions.

### Analysis of Customer Feedback

25. Staff have been actively monitoring the effects of the change through maintenance auditing, and review of customer enquiry trends relating to requests for loose litter collection and overflowing bins.
26. 3,210 litter bins were targeted to be removed, which represents 31 per cent of the total bin count across the region. 2,381 litter bins were removed, which represents 23 per cent of the total bin count. 579 bins were retained and funded through local board discretionary funding.
27. Staff have seen a 3.4 per cent increase in reported problems per week compared to the same 6-month period last year at sites where bins have been removed.
28. 4,843 Requests for Service (RFS) relating to loose litter were raised by customers over a 6-month period between October 2023 and March 2024.
- Nine per cent (441) of these requests were raised by customers at locations where bins were removed.
  - Of the 441 requests relating to bin removal, 66 per cent (293) were raised before a bin was removed and 34 per cent (148) were raised after a bin was removed.
  - 55 per cent (82) of the requests raised after a bin was removed were for bins that were overflowing.
29. RFS volume at locations where bins were not removed:
- Up eight per cent (338) on the same six-month period in 2022/2023.
  - Up ten per cent (392) on the same six-month period in 2021/2022.
30. RFS volume at locations where bins were removed:





















































































































































































