

**REPORT TO:** Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 4 January 2012

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Communities

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER:** Physical Environment

**SUBJECT:** Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress made in respect of reducing the nuisance caused by Abandoned Shopping Trolleys in the Borough.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members of the Board note the report.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 At its meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011, the Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board endorsed a draft Abandoned Shopping Trolley policy and made recommendations in respect of its adoption. The draft policy was subsequently approved by full Council on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011.

3.2 The intention of the Abandoned Shopping Trolley policy was to reduce the number of trolleys abandoned in the borough's shopping areas, residential estates and open spaces. Members of the Board asked to be kept updated on the impact of the policy and this report provides information on progress made with tackling abandoned shopping trolleys since the new policy came into force.

**3.3 Voluntary Protocol**

Legislation allows local authorities to enter into agreements with local retailers, in which the retailers undertake to collect all abandoned trolleys notified within a specified period of time. Officers have identified 22 retailers in Halton who provide shopping trolleys for use by customers. At the time of writing this report, 16 retailers had signed up to the voluntary protocol and responses were awaited from the remaining 6 retailers, who have each been contacted by officers and sent a copy of the protocol for consideration.

### 3.4 Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

Between 1<sup>st</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> November, 160 trolleys had been identified as being abandoned across the borough. These trolleys have been reported by local councillors, members of the public or observed by officers carrying out routine inspections. Of these trolleys, 129 were collected by the responsible store within the timescales required by the voluntary protocol. The remaining 31 trolleys were collected by the Council, either as a result of the responsible store having not signed up to the protocol or, where they had, failing to recover the trolley within the required timescales.

3.5 The Tesco and Asda stores in Runcorn are the two stores that experience the highest numbers of trolleys being removed and abandoned by customers. Both stores are working proactively to help tackle this problem and, in addition to signing the voluntary protocol, have taken the following steps:

- Asda employ Trolleywise, a national company, to collect abandoned trolleys on their behalf. Since the beginning of September the company have recovered 83 abandoned shopping trolleys over and above those reported to the store by the Council.
- Tesco employ Trolley Collection Service (TCS), a regional company, to collect abandoned trolleys on their behalf. TCS carry out a daily patrol of the Palacefields & Hallwood Park estates to retrieve any abandoned trolleys. Tesco have also implemented a 'civil recovery scheme' aimed at customers who remove trolleys. They have also fitted coin locks to their trolleys in an attempt to reduce the removal from the Halton Lea shopping centre. Since the beginning of September TCS have recovered 300 abandoned shopping trolleys over and above those reported to the store by the Council.

### 3.6 Cost Recovery

Legislation allows the Council to recover its costs associated with recovering shopping trolleys. To date, the Council has invoiced the responsible stores a total of £1,345 for the recovery of the 31 abandoned trolleys as referred to in paragraph 3.3 above.

## 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy implications as a result of the report.

## 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the report.

## 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified.

### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

No direct impact, but the Policy contributes towards improving the environment and the appearance of the borough and is having an overall beneficial affect on well-being.

### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The shopping trolley policy has made supermarkets more responsible for their equipment, and has helped reduce the potential hazards encountered by individuals as a result of discarded trolleys. This is having a positive impact upon the Safer Halton Priority and is contributing towards the 'Cleaner, Greener, Safer' agenda.

### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

No direct impact, but the policy is helping to improve the visual appearance of the borough's shopping areas and the surrounding environment, helping the borough to remain an attractive location for investment.

## 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Failure to maintain a fit for purpose Abandoned Shopping Trolley Policy could reduce the effectiveness of the Council's powers to deal with abandoned shopping trolleys and:

- Result in a reduced deterrent for retail outlets to take measures to prevent shopping trolleys from escaping their store confines;
- Reduce the attractiveness of town centre and residential areas and result in increased dangers to members of the public;
- Result in unnecessary and increased costs being incurred by the Council to deal with abandoned shopping trolleys.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The Policy is not intended to have either a positive or negative impact upon equality and diversity or apply differently to any particular group. The Waste and Environmental Improvement Division will continue to invite and seek feedback on its waste collection services and policies and will respond to any suggestion of differential impact.

**9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Abandoned Shopping Trolley Policy - Report endorsed by Full Council on 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2011.	Runcorn Town Hall	Jimmy Unsworth Divisional Manager Waste & Environmental Improvement