

QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC



Question submitted by: Byran Driver

To the Cabinet Member or Chair for: Transport - Cllr John Stephens

To be asked at the next (Council, Cabinet or Planning Committee) Meeting: Council

Date: 26 January 2026

Question (to be no longer than 50 words):

What consultation was undertaken with local residents regarding the removal of 112 grit bins? Scrutiny papers suggest placement was the issue, yet Sutton and Mount Gould appear to have a net loss of six bins. Why were bins removed rather than relocated?

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)

The purpose of the review was to establish an evidence-based approach to the siting of grit bins and ensure all Councillor green grit bins, were adopted as HMPE, this would allow maintenance costs to be met by Plymouth Highways winter budget.

In addition, it was recognised that several Salt Bins historically located across the city were placed without being in receipt of an engineered assessment. A full City-wide review of our Salt Bin asset was proposed and this process allowed for consideration of Road type, layout, use and special risk. Each location was assessed individually and scores allocated dependant on the hazard(s) identified, these included consideration for

- HMPE status
- Carriageway Gradient
- Bend Radius
- Road Classification
- Distance to next bin
- Distance to junction
- No of premises affected
- Schools / Community Centres

The grit bin review recommendations to the Housing and Community Services Scrutiny Panel were presented on 16th July 2025.

112 existing grit bins were recommended for removal and 81 new locations to be added, resulting in a net reduction from 480 to 449 bins. Following consultation with Ward Councillors these numbers were amended to show a final provision of 452 bins around the City.

The review was accepted by the Scrutiny Panel with the proviso that all Ward Councillors were consulted prior to any changes taking place. The emails were sent to all Ward Councillors on 7th August with a three-week consultation period with responses by Friday 29th August 2025.

Sutton and Mount Gould had 4 existing bins, all of which were removed due to very low scores, and 2 new bins were placed after scoring highly enough to be considered. This resulted in a net loss of 2 grit bins in Sutton and Mount Gould.

We continue to review Grit Bin requests and additional sites will be mobilised for the winter period of 2026/27.