

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Improving Places Select Commission</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing Services Review: Monitoring report / update</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	Environment and Development Services

### 5. Summary

**This report provides an update on the recommendations from the review undertaken by the Improving Places Select Commission of Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing services in July 2013**

### 6. Recommendations

**1. Members note the progress that has been made on each of the recommendations**

### 7. Proposals and details

7.1 The initial review of Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing services was undertaken by the Improving Places Select Commission in July 2012 and a resultant action plan was produced. Progress against the action plan was first reported to the Commission on 27th November 2013. This report provides a final update (Appendix A) against the specific recommendations that resulted from the review. All of the identified actions have been completed, although the nature of some mean that they are ongoing and / or require further work in order to determine the way forward.

7.2 Since the last update report there have been two significant actions that have helped to improve the quality of service provision. Firstly the Grounds Maintenance Service received two year funding (2014/15 and 2015/16) from Housing Services (HRA) to enable additional works to be undertaken on older people's complexes. This has led to a significant increase in the number of positive comments from residents and a reduced number of complaints / requests for service (e.g. down by 65% in May 2015). Discussions are ongoing in respect of the continuation of this funding. Secondly the Street Cleansing Service received an increase of £200,000 to its revenue budget for 2015/16. The Service is in the process of recruiting additional staff, vehicles and equipment and the associated additional work (weed killing, litter picking and litter bin emptying) will commence as soon as the resources are in place.

7.3 The combination of the reviews (Improving Places Select Commission and Internal Service), the associated action plans and the additional funding has enabled both services to make the most of their available resources in order to deliver efficient and effective services to residents. Both services will continue to review operations in order to identify improvements and efficiencies, and to contribute to the forthcoming savings targets that are necessary to enable the Council to operate within its budget over the next 3 years.

## **8. Finance**

The provision of both Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing services may be subject to future budget decisions.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

The need for service provision continues to be significantly influenced by the level of funding, the weather conditions and by the behaviour of people in respect of their attitude to all forms of littering.

The planned schedules for both grounds maintenance and street cleansing will continue to be challenging to deliver, particularly in respect of the contribution the services will need to make to future budget savings targets.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Implemented actions / changes and additional funding support have helped both services to better meet performance targets.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Report to the Improving Places Select Commission, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013

## **12. Contact:**

Steve Hallsworth, Leisure and Community Services Manager, ext 22483,  
[steve.hallsworth@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:steve.hallsworth@rotherham.gov.uk)