

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 13 April 2026

**Report Title**

Street Cleansing and Fly Tipping Improvements

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

**Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

**Report Author(s)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

In March 2025 Council approved a £307k revenue investment to create a new Rural Verge & Principal Gateway Cleansing and Maintenance Team (RVGC) to improve the cleanliness and appearance of rural verges and key gateway locations across the Borough. Following recruitment and traffic management (TM) training, the Team became fully operational in October 2025. This report provides a progress update on rural verge cleansing, outlines the forthcoming gateway maintenance programme, and notes the agreed development of a second RVGC team.

Headlines to date (since mobilisation):

- 117 sites completed (133 remaining, targeted for completion by the end of March 2026.)
- 146 km of roadside verge litter-picked.
- 4,200 bags of waste removed and 12 tonnes collected, plus additional tonnage from several large fly-tipping jobs.
- Data capture enhanced: daily bag counts, weights, and hotspot intelligence (flytipping, asbestos, drug paraphernalia) now recorded to inform future schedules and enforcement.

A focused gateway cleansing and maintenance schedule will run in the April–October window, complementing the established rural verge programme (May–October).

## **Recommendations**

That Cabinet note:

1. The progress delivered by the RVGC team since mobilisation.
2. The planned April–October gateway cleansing and maintenance programme and the improved data capture now in place to inform future scheduling.

## **List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 – Equality analysis  
Appendix 2 – Carbon Impact assessment

## **Background Papers**

June 2025 – [Street Cleansing and Fly Tipping Cabinet Report](#)

## **Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

None

## **Council Approval Required**

No

## **Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## Street Cleansing and Fly Tipping Improvements

### 1. Background and Context

- 1.1 In March 2025 Council approved a £307k revenue investment to create the RVGC team to address longstanding issues including litter accumulation on rural verges requiring Traffic Management (TM), and the overall appearance of principal township gateways. The new team provides additional capacity and a more visible presence on the network. It also proactively provides intelligence on littering and flytipping to Community Protection colleagues. Following recruitment delays, due to lack of initial market interest, the team became fully operational in October 2025 after TM training. The Team comprises 3 × Band C operatives and 1 × Band D operative.
- 1.2 The service complements the Rural Verge Maintenance team which operates from May to October each year maintaining 360 roadside verges (460km) that require traffic management. As a result of this investment, the capacity in this area has been doubled.
- 1.3 The RVGC model splits activity into two seasons to maximise impact and avoid duplication with the established rural verge programme:
- **Autumn/Winter (October–March):** Rural verge cleansing on routes requiring TM, doubling capacity for litter-picking on the network while operating to a different seasonal schedule to the established verge team.
  - **Spring/Summer (April–October):** Principal township gateway cleansing and maintenance on a newly developed schedule to improve detritus removal, weeds management, litter picking, grubbing out, and vegetation management along key entrances to the Borough.
- 1.4 While active in TM-restricted areas, the Team also undertakes proactive flytipping clearance and provides littering/flytipping intelligence for enforcement and targeted interventions.

### 2. Key Issues

#### 2.1 Progress to date (Autumn/Winter Rural Verge Cleansing)

2.2 **Work started:** October 2025, following TM training and mobilisation.

2.3 **Annual Target:** 250 roadside litter pick sites, totalling approximately 300 km.

**Completed so far:** 117 sites (across all three operational zones), 146 km cleansed. The delivery pace reflects initial conditions and the need for team competence building.

2.4 **Waste collected:** 4,200 bags; 12 tonnes recorded to date, with additional unbagged tonnage from large flytipping incidents. This is lower tonnage than standard residual waste which reflects the predominance of light, high-volume

roadside litter (bottles, cans, food packaging, paper) – hence the shift to bag count reporting alongside weights.

2.5 **Data & intelligence improvements:** daily bag counts, weights, and hotspot mapping (fly-tipping, asbestos, drug paraphernalia) are now being captured and will be shared with relevant teams to help refine future schedules and enforcement priorities.

2.6 Photos from site jobs are shown below:

### ***Hellaby Lane***

2.7



### ***Oldcotes/Lambs Lane***

2.8

Before



Before



After



2.9 **Next Phase: Gateway Cleansing & Maintenance (April–October)**

From late March/early April the RVGC team will switch to the gateway programme, while the established verge team commences its May–October cycle. The gateway work is a new scheduled activity covering several key routes in and out of the borough (detailed below). The scope includes detritus removal, weed treatment/clearance, litter-picking, removal of overhanging branches/hedges, grubbing out, and other tasks needed to improve gateway appearance. Officers will monitor progress, recognising that some locations may require a return visit to complete the full scope of works required. This programme is in addition to any routine jobs logged by residents in these areas.

## 2.10 Initial focused gateway cleansing areas:

Site
A629 New Wortley Road
Centenary Way A630
Wickersley Road / Broom Road / Wellgate A6021
Fitzwilliam Road A630
Greasbrough Road A6123
Meadowbank Road / Wilton Lane / New Wortley Road
Rawmarsh Road
St Annes Road A633
Clifton Lane
Ferham Road To Coronation Bridge
Moorgate Road A618
Warren Vale Rawmarsh

2.11 The current plan is to visit these by schedule and complete 1 day's work on each location every 3 weeks. There will be an immediate noticeable improvement from works completed in each location and these improvements will hopefully be sustained by the new the schedule. Many of the improvements require slightly less frequent maintenance, i.e. the removal of detritus, path edging etc. allowing the teams to focus return efforts on cleansing.

## 3. Options Considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The options and proposals were agreed in the March 2025 report and Cabinet are asked to note the progress to date.

## **3.2 Future development and reports**

3.3 Council (March 2026) approved a further revenue investment of £272k to create a second RVGC team. Recruitment commenced in mid-March 2026. A full-year update on both teams' performance will be reported in April 2027

## **4. Consultation on proposal**

4.1 As the implementation of this service is the result of a budget investment approved as part of the Council's budget, further consultation has not been required, and this report provides information to note only.

## **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1 Recruitment of second team: underway from March 2026.

5.2 Progress update: Cabinet in April 2027 covering Team 1 and Team 2.

## **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

6.1 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations in this update. The team is funded by a revenue investment of £307k approved as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process, with a further revenue investment of £272k approved as part of the 2026/27 budget setting process. Spend and performance will be monitored via the Council's established budget financial monitoring reporting cycle. As recruitment to posts was delayed, the Service are currently reporting an underspend against this investment in 2025/26, however, it is anticipated that this and the additional investment will be spent in full in 2026/27.

## **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. Recruitment to new roles will be undertaken in line with the Council's policies, procedures, and the legal framework governing recruitment and selection. Once recruitment has taken place appropriate training is also to be provided.

## **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

8.1 Recruitment for the additional team is being progressed in accordance with corporate HR policies and safer recruitment standards. Operational staff will continue to receive mandatory training (including TM and H&S), PPE, and access to occupational health support as required.

8.2 The service intends to undertake an internal recruitment exercise in the first instance, to support development and progression from within the organisation. Should a suitable candidate not be appointed internally, the vacancy will then be advertised externally via the RMBC website.

## 9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Team and Officers will undertake mandatory training with regards to safeguarding and relevant reporting procedures.

## 10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) has been completed and is attached as Appendix 1.

10.2 This is a progress update to inform cabinet, all decisions will be made in line with Council policy regarding recruitment that ensures a process which regards equality and diversity through all stages, and therefore there are no equality implications for this report.

## 11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Service carbon emissions may increase slightly due to staff deployment and vehicle movements across the borough; mitigations include efficient scheduling, sustainable travel where feasible, and effective waste management. As an outdoor service, staff and activities may be affected by climate change impacts (heatwaves and flooding) and these will be managed through existing procedure.

## 12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no implications for partners as part of this update.

## 13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 **Recruitment & retention:** Delays in appointing to specialist roles could impact delivery windows. *Mitigation:* early advertising, use of talent pools, and cross-skilling within Grounds & Streets and Waste.

**Weather/seasonality:** Severe weather can disrupt schedules and vegetation management. *Mitigation:* seasonal planning, flexible scheduling, contingency routes.

**Traffic management availability:** TM constraints can limit daily output. *Mitigation:* forward booking TM resources and dynamic rerouting.

**Health & safety on highspeed roads:** Elevated risk to crews. *Mitigation:* TM training, Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS) supervision and compliance audits.

**Waste volumes & composition:** High bag counts but low weight can affect productivity measures; large fly tips can draw capacity. *Mitigation:* dual KPI approach (bags and weights) and rapid response protocols with enforcement support.

- 13.2 Performance will be tracked using:
- **Operational output:** sites completed, km cleansed, bags and tonnes collected.
  - **Quality/impact:** hotspot trend analysis and gateway condition checks.
  - **Programme delivery:** adherence to seasonal schedules, completion rates by route.
- 13.3 Progress will be reported through routine financial/performance cycles and via the 2027 Cabinet update.

**14. Accountable Officers**

Sam Barstow: Service Director Community Safety and Street Scene

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	John Edwards	18/03/26
Executive Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	16/03/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	12/03/26

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