

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	Cabinet Member and Advisers for Waste and Emergency Planning
2. Date:	Monday 7th April 2014
3. Title:	Street Cleansing Methods of Operation - Update
4. Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

This report provides a summary of proposed Street Cleansing Methods of Operation following trials that have taken place over the last 12 months.

6. Recommendations

6.1 That the Cabinet Member notes the proposed methods of operation.

7. Proposals and details

After several months of trials of different working arrangements for Street Cleansing, it is proposed to adopt the following methods of operation.

Scheduled Cleansing Rounds - The scheduled rounds (litter picking and bin emptying) have been revised using information provided by operatives, residents (contacts relating to requests for service) as well as management experience and knowledge. The purpose of this was to establish the most efficient frequencies for each activity, within the available resources; associated with this, we have been conducting a programme of removal of under-used litter bins to release capacity and, as a result some areas / bins will receive fewer visits and others will receive more.

District Cleansing - The review has confirmed that a number of township centres do require the retention of a dedicated lengthsman , as follows:

- Wath
- Parkgate
- Wales
- Dinnington
- Maltby
- Swinton
- Swallownest

The Brinsworth lengthsman will be consolidated into the Herringthorpe scheduled cleansing round as evidence over a couple of months (when we have had to cover sickness and vacancies) has shown that it is possible to do so effectively.

Hotspot team - A new team of three operatives has been set up to deal primarily with the litter hotspots of Eastwood Village, Ferham (Holmes Lane Josephine Rd etc.) and Clifton (Middle Lane etc.). The team will have some level of discretion about how much time they spend in each area depending on ground conditions on any given day.

Superblitz - Since November 2013 we have trialled the “superblitz” approach whereby a small number of streets are targeted and are thoroughly cleansed to include grubbing out, cutting back, clearing channels, footpath sweeping etc. We have specifically chosen places that do not get much attention during the rest of the year. We intend to carry out 6 such operations per year between October and March; this is because during the busy summer months there isn't the capacity to undertake these actions

Mechanical sweeping – several changes are imminent:

- (1) A programme for sweeping offside central reservations, splitter island and roundabouts has been drawn to commence early in the new financial year;
- (2) A new compact mechanical sweeper is being procured to replace the micro-sweepers that have in Rotherham (and Wath) Town Centres. Because this machine will have a better travelling speed (30 mph or greater), the vehicle will be able to do work outside of the town centre for example on major footpaths in townships and villages.

- (3) The schedules for the large (carriageway) mechanical sweepers have been fully reviewed which will enable us to schedule with more certainty when the vehicles will be in a particular area. In the event of an interruption to the schedules, the sweepers will restart from the points at which they had reached. Provision is also being made in the schedules to provide capacity to deal with ad hoc requests.

All proposed methods of operation will be monitored by managers and supervisors and further feedback will be sought from a staff focus group (that will meet every quarter) and from customer contacts. If any necessary modifications are identified they will be implemented at appropriate times during the year.

8. Finance

The changes to the method of operations will be accommodated within the existing Street Cleansing budget.

9 Risks and Uncertainties

As with the introduction of any new method of working it is not possible to be completely certain about its effectiveness. However the level of ongoing monitoring that will take place should be sufficient to ensure the early identification of any issues. Appropriate management actions will then be taken.

10 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

It is considered that the proposal will have a positive impact on Council's corporate priority No. 4

'All areas of Rotherham are safe, clean and well maintained'

11 Background Papers and Consultation

Cabinet Member and Advisers for Waste and Emergency Planning, Monday 18 March 2013, *Trialling a different way of working in street cleansing*, Minute L71.

12 Contact

Contact Name: Shirley Hallam – Leisure & Community Services Area Manager (West), Extension 23825, e-mail steve.hallsworth@rotherham.gov.uk