

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member and Advisers for Planning, Highways and Street Scene Services</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Future provision of Street Cleansing services in Wath upon Dearne Town Centre</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Environment and Development Services</b>

**5. Summary:** This report sets options for the future provision of Street Cleansing services in Wath Town Centre.

### 6. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet Member agrees to Option 3, the removal of the small mechanical sweeper service in Wath Town Centre along with the retention of a dedicated cleansing operative.

### 7. Proposals and Details

The Street Cleansing service currently deploys a small mechanical sweeper to work primarily on the pedestrian areas of Wath Town Centre, the machine operates on a daily basis (Monday – Friday). Wath is the only township which benefits from this type of mechanical sweeping resource.

The lease on the Wath sweeper is due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014 and consideration needs to be given to whether we continue with this level of service.

The costs associated with the sweeper are:

- Lease: £16,420 per annum )
- Waste disposal: £5,500 ) Total annual cost = £30,520
- Fuel (approx.) £8,300 )
- Water (approx.) £300 )

At the same time, the two similar sweepers in Rotherham Town Centre are also due for replacement, and it is planned that a single, larger compact Sweeper will be procured. Whilst Rotherham Town Centre will remain the priority for this new machine, its larger capacity and road speed will mean that it can also operate away from the town centre, albeit not on a daily basis. This would mean that all townships will be able to benefit (from time-to-time) from the mechanical sweeping of areas of high footfall.

Options for the future provision of Street Cleansing services in Wath Town Centre have therefore been developed as follows:

**Option 1:** Retain the small mechanical sweeper on a secondary lease - while the lease cost would reduce slightly, the machine is already beyond its planned life, and has had an unacceptably high level of downtime for repairs over the last year; when this happens the operative reverts to normal litter-picking/lengthsman duties.

**Option 2:** Replace the current sweeper like-for-like with a new machine - this would be at a higher annual cost.

**Option 3:** Remove the small mechanical sweeper but retain the dedicated cleansing operative as a lengthsman; this would mean that the cleansing provision was in line with other similar townships in the borough. Under this option, Wath would still continue to receive support from a mechanical sweeper (albeit at a lesser frequency) sufficient to maintain to the same standards as other similar Town Centres in the Borough. .

Option 3 is recommended as it will provide the most cost-effective way of maintaining service standards in Wath while enabling other areas to benefit from mechanical sweeping as well.

## **8. Finance**

The Street Cleansing budget is under some financial pressure to keep within its 2014/15 cash limits, these can be partly mitigated if option 3 is adopted.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

If Option 3 is taken there will be a reduction in mechanical sweeping services in Wath Town Centre, but the continuation of the dedicated operative and the support from the new Rotherham Town Centre sweeper will ensure that it continues to be maintained to the same standards as other similar Town Centres in the Borough.

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

The proposal has the potential to impact on the Council's 4<sup>th</sup> priority

*Priority 4: All areas of Rotherham are safe, clean and well maintained*

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

N/A

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