
Consultation on proposed changes to the Street Cleansing and Litter Picking Services

Committee considering report:	Executive on 18 January 2018
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Dominic Boeck
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	21 December 2017
Report Author:	Jackie Ward
Forward Plan Ref:	EX3400

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report the results of the public consultation on the proposed changes to the Street Cleansing and Litter Picking Services and to approve the way forward.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the proposals set out in the consultation are progressed and that the Street Cleansing and Litter Picking Service is reduced.
- 2.2 In areas other than town centres, move away from the current scheduled programme of cleansing and litter picking and introduce a more reactive service. This will provide an opportunity to increase efficiency and effectiveness within the service, by focusing activity in areas where it is most needed.

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Financial:** The proposal will make revenue savings which will be reported as part of the Council's 2018/19 budget.
- 3.2 **Policy:** None
- 3.3 **Personnel:** There are no implications for WBC staff.
- 3.4 **Legal:** A change to the Integrated Waste Management Contract will be progressed. This is set out in a separate report.
- 3.5 **Risk Management:** The consultation sought responses from the public. Analysis of the responses received has helped inform risk mitigation in consideration of the proposals. Risks associated with the contract change are set out in separate report.
- 3.6 **Property:** None
- 3.7 **Other:** There will be a significant operational reduction in the street cleansing service and therefore a reduction in the quality of the local environment.

4. Other options considered

4.1 As part of the proposal we considered the following options:

- (1) The introduction of a reactive service for the town centres, council car parks and Newbury Bus Station; however we discounted this option in favour of maintaining a more scheduled programme of work in these areas, to ensure that acceptable standards are maintained.
- (2) We are not proposing to make any changes to the Response Crew service as the removal of fly tips, hazardous litter and drug related litter will remain a high priority for us.
- (3) We are planning on the development of a parish devolution programme, where advice would be provided to town and parish councils that are interested in independently enhancing the revised service in their local area.

Executive Summary

5. Introduction / Background

- 5.1 The public consultation ran from 20th September 2017 until 31st October 2017.
- 5.2 The public consultation proposed the following: In areas other than town centres, we would move away from the current scheduled programme of cleansing and litter picking and introduce a more reactive service. This will provide an opportunity to increase efficiency and effectiveness within the service, by focusing activity in areas where it is most needed. The consultation is shown in Appendix C.
- 5.3 The purpose of this report is to summarise the responses received, address the issues raised, consider alternatives to the proposals where appropriate and recommend a course of action.

6. Proposal

- 6.1 In total, 50 responses were received. 68% disagreed with the main proposals.
- 6.2 Summary of the main points in the consultation responses were;
- Concern that litter bins will overflow and become unsightly due to unscheduled emptying.
 - Litter will be left to build up before anything is done and this in turn will lead to an increase in vermin.
 - Rural areas will be badly affected by this change and with many of these locations falling in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; this could impact on the number of visitors and local businesses.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Following the consultation results it is recommended that the proposals set out in the consultation are progressed and that the Street Cleansing and Litter Picking Service is reduced.
- 7.2 In areas other than town centres, move away from the current scheduled programme of cleansing and litter picking and introduce a more reactive service. This will provide an opportunity to increase efficiency and effectiveness within the service, by focusing activity in areas where it is most needed.
- 7.3 The changes to the Street Cleansing and Litter Picking Services will require a contract change to the Integrated Waste Management Contract and the detail of this is set out in a separate report.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Equalities Impact Assessment
- 8.2 Appendix B – Supporting Information
- 8.3 Appendix C (a and b) - Consultation proposal and survey
- 8.4 Appendix D – Consultation Summary Report

8.5 Appendix E – Consultation verbatim responses

Appendix A

Equality Impact Assessment – Stage One

What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Executive to make:	To change the Street Cleansing and Litter Picking Service from a scheduled service to a more reactive service.
Summary of relevant legislation:	Environmental Protection Act 1990
Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the Council’s key strategy priorities?	No
Name of assessor:	Jackie Ward
Date of assessment:	18/07/17 and 14/11/17

Is this a:		Is this:	
Policy	No	New or proposed	Yes
Strategy	Yes	Already exists and is being reviewed	Yes
Function	No	Is changing	Yes
Service	Yes		

1 What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?	
Aims:	To reduce spend on the street cleansing and litter picking service by reducing the service.
Objectives:	To reduce spend
Outcomes:	Increase in complaints and risks
Benefits:	None

2 Note which groups may be affected by the proposed decision. Consider how they may be affected, whether it is positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this.		
Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
Age	None	
Disability	None	
Gender Reassignment	None	

Marriage and Civil Partnership	None	
Pregnancy and Maternity	None	
Race	None	
Religion or Belief	None	
Sex	None	
Sexual Orientation	None	
Further Comments relating to the item:		
There is no evidence to indicate that there will be a greater impact on one group than on any other.		

3 Result	
Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?	No
<p>Please provide an explanation for your answer: If changes are made to how customers access the Councils customer service, for example a decision is made to remove the ability to directly telephone the Council, this could impact on their ability to report situations where litter or detritus has increased. However at this stage no changes are proposed that could cause this negative impact.</p>	
Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?	No
Please provide an explanation for your answer:	

4 Identify next steps as appropriate:	
Stage Two required	There is no evidence to indicate that there will be a greater impact on one group than on any other.
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	Not required
Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	Not required

Name: Jackie Ward

Date: Updated 14/11/17