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

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Council is a Principal Litter Authority as set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and has a statutory duty to maintain relevant land and keep it clear of litter and refuse as far as practicable (section 89).
- 1.2 On 20th September 2017 the Council started a consultation proposing changes to its street cleansing and litter picking services.
- 1.3 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 proposal is shown in Appendix C.
- 1.4 The consultation closed on 31st October 2017 and 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.

2. Supporting Information

Format of the consultation

- 2.1 The consultation was available at www.westberks.gov.uk/streetcleansing for six weeks. We asked how the proposal could potentially impact on individuals and on the wider community. In particular, we asked for any views as to how we could minimise the impact of this proposed change.
- 2.2 The consultation launch was promoted by;
 - email directly to local stakeholders, including the Town and Parish Councils,
 - a press release was issued to local and regional media as well as district councillors and MPs,
 - a news story was published on the Council website,
 - it was shared on the Council Facebook and Twitter pages and from there shared by others, and
 - posters were displayed in libraries and leisure centres.
- 2.3 The majority of responses were received via the online questionnaire.

Summary of the consultation responses

- 2.4 In total, 50 responses were received. 68% disagreed with the main proposals.

2.5 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.

2.6 The Consultation Summary Report is shown in Appendix D and the verbatim responses are in Appendix E. Both are available at www.westberks.gov.uk/streetcleansing

2.7 Further to the Stage 1 Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix A) no new evidence was provided in the consultation responses that demonstrated greater impact on one group of people with particular protected characteristics compared to any other, therefore a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment was not required.

3. Options for Consideration

3.1 To agree the change to the street cleansing and litter picking services, reduce the revenue budget and develop a parish devolution programme.

3.2 As part of the proposal we considered the following which will address concerns raised in the summary of the responses:

- (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.

4. Conclusion

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

5. Consultation and Engagement

5.1 In addition to the public consultation the following officers and stakeholders have been consulted:

- (1) Veolia ES West Berkshire Ltd
- (2) Mark Cole, Traffic Services Manager
- (3) Jenny Lyons, Principal Waste Officer
- (4) Andy Day, Head of Strategic Support
- (5) Rachel Craggs, Principal Policy Officer
- (6) Shiraz Sheikh, Acting Legal Services Manager

Background Papers:

In appendices

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position

Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months

Item is Urgent Key Decision

Report is to note only

Wards affected:

All

Strategic Aims and Priorities Supported:

The proposals will help achieve the following Council Strategy aim:

MEC – Become an even more effective Council

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Strategy priority:

MEC1 – Become an even more effective Council

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Strategy aim and priority by reshaping what we do and how we do it so that we can continue to live within our means.

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