

	<h2>Environment Committee</h2> <h3>4 June 2019</h3>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Title</b></p>	<h2>Street Cleansing Improvement Options</h2>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Chairman of Environment Committee</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix A – Street Cleansing Improvement Options Report</p>
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## Summary

On 14 March 2019, the Environment Committee endorsed the allocation of an additional £500k per annum to be provided to Street Scene commencing in the 2019-20 financial year. This was to be used to make improvements to the street cleansing service. The Committee approved that £100k be delegated to the Strategic Director of Environment to deploy in advance of the Environment Committee on 4 June 2019 to make early improvements with further options developed to invest the remaining £400k in activities that would make the greatest impact on improving the cleanliness of the borough. In line with the recommendations agreed at 14 March 2019 Environment Committee this report:

- sets out how £100k of this additional funding has been used to address immediate priorities.
- provides costed options for where the remaining £400k could be used from June 2019 to make further longer term, sustainable improvements.

## Recommendations

1. That the Environment Committee notes the report and its content
2. That the Environment Committee reviews the options presented within the Street Cleansing Improvement Report (Appendix A) and agrees those which it would like taken forward by officers

**3. That the Environment Committee agree to the inclusion of the section of Gaskarth Road within the Barnet Waste Regulations, as set out in section 1B of this report.**

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

### **1A. STREET CLEANSING IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS**

On 14 March 2019, the Environment Committee endorsed £500k from the additional £1m funding allocated to Street Scene by Full Council in the 2019-20 budget setting process. This was to be used to make improvements to the street cleansing service. The Committee approved that £100k be delegated to the Strategic Director of Environment to deploy in advance of 4 June 2019 Environment Committee to make early improvements with further options developed to invest the remaining £400k in activities that would make the greatest impact on improving the cleanliness of the borough.

#### **1.1 This report:**

- sets out how £100k this additional funding has been used to address immediate priorities; and
- provides costed options for where the remaining £400k could be used from June 2019 to make longer term, sustainable improvements.

#### **1.2 The Street Cleansing Improvement Options Report can be found in Appendix A.**

#### **1.3 The following recommendations are offered:**

- The street cleansing establishment should be increased. Recruitment should be a mix of permanent and agency staff to better ensure that deployment of staff within the service remains constant.
- An Operations Supervisor post dedicated to the management, coordination, delivery and improvement of street cleansing services should be established and recruited to. This would enable greater focus to be invested in the service, ensuring available resources are used to maximum effect and staff are well supported.
- Working hours need to be more flexible and shift patterns developed to ensure adequate coverage of cleansing services to meet demand across the day, particularly in high footfall areas of the borough. Changes to the current working patterns for new staff will enable this creating a more flexible and responsive service.
- Current residential road cleansing schedules should be reviewed. Different areas of the borough require different levels of street cleansing. It is accepted that in town centres a daily presence is needed. Extended periods between monitoring assessments and delivering the cleansing needed will be acceptable on some residential roads. While all areas will not receive the same level of service to ensure minimum standards are maintained, they will receive the same level of outcome. Over delivery of services in the current financial climate is to be avoided and this needs to be communicated to residents and supported by elected Members.

- Action is needed to address the current detritus levels that have increased as a result of increased litter picking and a reduction in some areas of manual sweeping frequencies. The recruitment of more Driver/Operatives will enable full deployment of mechanical sweepers. Alternate side cleansing should be trialed to determine the effectiveness and replicability of these in enabling more obstruction free mechanical and manual cleansing.
- An agency staff budget to help support the increased annual demand in quarter three to address leaf fall from the borough's street trees should be established. This would allow targeted leaf clearance during winter months, key in helping to better manage detritus levels.
- Additional staffing resources should be utilised to support the clearance of flytipping within the borough. This London wide issue requires a regional approach working with relevant organisation to address the current increase. Communications and the adoption of a zero tolerance approach to this illegal activity and publicising successful prosecutions should continue.
- An additional jet washing crew should be created to tackle the increasing graffiti levels in the borough and carry out deep cleansing of pavements and footways in high footfall areas. Street Scene Operations Managers, Supervisors and Street Cleansing Operatives should be involved in the specification of a suitable vehicle and equipment. The service should be promoted to organisations and private land owners in the borough failing to maintain acceptable standards. Any revenue generated should be reinvested in the street cleansing service.
- The fleet refresh timeframe needs to be revisited with the prioritisation of replacing those vehicles that are no longer fit for purpose, unreliable or on hire. The dilution of the fleet age profile should begin during the 2019-20 financial year.
- The grant allocated to the Council through the High Street Community Clean Up fund should be fully utilised during 2019-20. Links with known community and voluntary groups should be consolidated and new groups identified with support provided to help them mobilise and carry out cleansing focussed activity that improves the local environment and supports Council objectives.

1.4 As those closest to the street cleansing service, meetings were held with Operations Managers, Supervisors and frontline cleansing staff to share their valuable expertise and discuss ideas and suggestions as to how the additional funding could be invested to help in delivering a high quality and resilient street cleansing service.

1.5 Meetings began with Managers and Supervisors on 3 April with communications being issued to frontline staff via memo on 4 April. In addition, information was displayed on posters at depots and on the AV display units at Oakleigh Depot located in both the reception area and canteen area requesting their involvement and ideas

1.6 Interactive briefings with frontline staff took place on 25 April at Oakleigh Depot and 30 April at Harrow Depot. A total of 35 staff attending the morning briefings with a further staff spoken to outside of this as well as meetings on location with staff who begin their working day 'in the field'.

1.7 A short paper survey was also issued to all staff. All constructive feedback received was used to inform the options presented in Appendix A.

## **1B. INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL SECTIONS OF ROADS WITHIN THE BARNET WASTE REGULATIONS**

1.8 This report seeks agreement to include an additional section of road within previously agreed areas that are subject to time banded recycling and waste collections, as part of the Barnet Waste Regulations 2017 approved for implementation at Council on 31 October 2017.

1.9 For clarification and the avoidance of doubt, the Environment Committee is requested to note that the timing of any enforcement action within time banded areas will be carried out in line with the Barnet Waste Regulations 2017. Any waste which is found to be non-compliant (including waste in unidentified containers, fly tipping, waste presented outside of the required presentation windows or in incorrect locations, and waste presented in bins where these are not permitted) is subject to enforcement.

1.10 Barnet's Waste Regulations 2017 aim to:

- Create a cleaner and tidier borough so that our town centres are a more attractive place to live, work and visit
- A cleaner and tidier borough so that our residential areas are a more attractive place to live, work and visit.
- Reduce the number of obstructions on the footways from recycling and waste containers.

1.11 The implementation of these regulations involves the establishment of "Time Bands" for recycling and waste collections and has the following effects:

- in town centre/shopping areas, restricting businesses and residents from putting out BINS for collection on the public highway and footpaths outside of specified times
- in town centre/shopping areas, restricting the time BAGGED waste can be put out for collection
- in all of Barnet, requiring residents and business not to consistently leave bins out before and after collection for an excessive time.

1.12 Time banded collections were introduced in Mill Hill town centre in July 2018, and there has been positive feedback from local residents and businesses.

1.13 The second time banding scheme was launched in Burnt Oak town centre on 6 May 2019.

The roads currently included within the Burnt Oak town centre time banded area are set out below.

Road	Section	Time Band
Burnt Oak Broadway	From North Road to 98 Burnt Oak Broadway (former Tesco) (one side)	06:00 – 09:30 Household and business
Watling Avenue	From Burnt Oak Broadway to Orange Hill Road	17:00 – 19:30 Business only
Back Lane	All of Back Lane	
Market Lane	All of Market Lane	
Barnfield Road	From Back Lane to Market Lane	22:00 – 00:00 (midnight) Business only - private waste collectors only

- 1.14 It is recommended that agreement is given to include the section of Gaskarth Road between Watling Avenue and Market Lane within the Barnet Waste Regulations. This road would then be included within the Burnt Oak time banded area.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The recommendations will allow the Environment Committee to review the report and agree the areas of priority for Street Cleansing and activities that Committee wish to take forward to make improvements in the performance and resilience of the service.
- 2.2 This will enable any appropriate education and enforcement action to be taken where bins or bagged waste are incorrectly presented in Gaskarth Road, which is adjacent to the previously agreed areas that are subject to time banded recycling and waste collections. This section of road was indicated on the maps considered at the meeting of Council on 31 October 2017, but was omitted from the written list of roads to be included. There are no residential or commercial addresses along this section of Gaskarth Road.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 The alternative approach would be to delegate decision making authority to the Chief Officer or not take forward any options or make any changes to the service.

#### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 If the Committee is so minded to approve the recommendations then Street Scene will develop detailed implementation plans and progress implementation.
- 4.2 Signage will be installed on Gaskarth Road to set out the time banding requirements to any residents and businesses who may use this road to deposit their waste. The section of road will be shown on the council's web pages related to time banding. Where necessary, any enforcement action will be carried out in current and future time banded areas, in line with the requirements for time banding, including on the day of collection.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

##### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

The Council's Corporate Plan, which sets out the outcomes, priorities and strategic approach, has been refreshed for 2019 to 2024. The Delivery Plan being reported to the March 2019 Committee set out how the service will deliver the Corporate Plan and includes performance indicators/targets to monitor progress.

##### **Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.1.1 **Finance & Value for Money**: The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) requires savings of £50,000 in 2016/17, and a further £600,000 in 2017/18 to 18/19 from changes to street cleaning.
- 5.1.2 In the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/24 and Budget for 2019/20, the Policy and Resources Committee approved the addition of £1m to the base budget for funding to be set aside for Environmental Improvements. Environment Committee agreed that of this, £0.500m will be provided for Improvements to Street Cleansing.
- 5.1.3 **Procurement**: None at this time.
- 5.1.4 **Staffing**: None at this time.
- 5.1.5 **Property**: None at this time.
- 5.1.6 **IT**: None at this time.
- 5.1.7 **Sustainability**: None at this time.
- 5.2 **Social Value**
- 5.2.1 Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. The street cleansing frame work will aid the cleansing in town centres helping underpin economic success. It will

also help to improve local environmental quality, and support community engagement.

### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

5.3.1 Local authorities have a number of different statutory powers and responsibilities in relation to street cleaning, recycling and waste collection. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended), the Controlled Waste Regulation 1992 (as amended) the London Local Authorities Acts 2007 (as amended). These acts set out the duty of the Local Authority to ensure that land in its area for which it is responsible is kept clear of litter and refuse.

5.3.2 Under the Council's Constitution:

- Article 2 states that a “key decision” is one which will result in the council incurring expenditure or savings of £500,000 or more, or is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area of two or more wards.
- Article 7 (Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships) sets out the responsible body and their functions. For the Environment Committee it's functions include:

*Responsibility for all borough-wide or cross-constituency matters relating to the street scene including, parking, road safety, lighting, street cleaning, transport, waste, waterways, refuse, recycling, allotments, parks, trees, crematoria and mortuary, trading standards and environmental health.”*

### **5.4 Risk Management**

5.4.1 There is a risk that should approval not be given to progress the investment options presented in Appendix A then improvements needed in the street cleansing service will not be realised or will be significantly delayed.

5.4.2 If approval is not given for the inclusion of Gaskarth Road to be included within the Burnt Oak timebanded area it would leave this location susceptible to increased flytipping and general non compliance with the Council unable to address this through enforcement.

### **5.5 Equalities and Diversity**

5.5.1 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision-making of the council. The Equality Act 2010 and the Public-Sector Equality Duty, requires elected Members to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place.

5.5.2 This is set out in the council's Equalities Policy together with our strategic Equalities Objective - as set out in the Corporate Plan - that citizens will be

treated equally with understanding and respect; have equal opportunities and receive quality services provided to best value principles.

## 5.6 **Corporate Parenting**

Not applicable.

## 5.7 **Consultation and Engagement**

### 5.7.1 Street Cleansing Improvement Options - Not Applicable

5.7.2 In May 2017 Environment Committee approved the draft waste regulations for consultation. Public consultation was undertaken between 4 May 2017 and 14 June 2017. The outcomes of the public consultation were considered at Council on 31 October 2017, and Council approved the adoption and implementation of Barnet Waste Regulations 2017.

## 5.8 **Insight**

5.8.1 There are no insight implications at this time.

## 6 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 Environment Committee, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Motion from full council – Street Cleansing & Environmental ASB

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=9669&Ver=4>

6.2 Environment Committee, 14th July 2016, Street Cleansing Framework

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=8634&Ver=4>

6.3 Council, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017, Final Barnet Waste Regulations 2017,

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s42881/Appendix%20A%20-%20Final%20Barnet%20Waste%20Regulations%202017.pdf>

6.4 Environment Committee, 28th November 2018, Business Planning 2019-2024

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49873/Business%20Planning-Committee%20Report.pdf>

6.5 Policy and Resources Committee, 11th December 2018, Corporate Plan 2019-24, Business Planning - Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/24 and Draft Budget for 2019/20

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=9460&Ver=4>

6.6 [Policy and Resources Paper February 2019](#) – including paper provides an update on the council's financial position