



**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT COVER SHEET**

<b>Title of Report:</b>	SMARTER Street Cleaning Programme – Update Report	To be marked with an 'X' by Democratic Services after report has been presented
<b>Meeting of:</b>	Corporate Management Team 18/02/20	X
	Leader and Deputy Leaders 24/02/20	X
	Leader's / Leader of the Opposition's Advisory Group / Independent Alliance Advisory Group 04/03/20 & 05/03/20	X
	Cabinet 16/03/20	
	Scrutiny Audit and Value for Money Council Services Committee [DATE] / Scrutiny Community Regeneration, Environment and Health and Well Being Committee [DATE]	



Is this an Executive Decision:	YES	Is this a Key Decision:	NO
Is this in the Forward Plan:	YES	Is the Report Confidential:	NO
If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:	N/A		

**Essential Signatories:**

**ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE**

Deputy Monitoring Officer: **Chris Ebberley**

Date ..... Signature .....

Chief Finance Officer: **Sal Khan**

Date ..... Signature .....

**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Report to Cabinet**

**Date: 16 March 2020**

**REPORT TITLE: SMARTER Street Cleaning Programme – Update Report**

**PORTFOLIO: Environment**

**HEAD OF SERVICE: Sal Khan**

**CONTACT OFFICER: Paul Farrer Ext. No. x1599**

**WARD(S) AFFECTED: All**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1. To provide a further update on the SMARTER street cleaning programme approved by Cabinet in February 2019.

**2. Executive Summary**

- 2.1. At their meeting in February 2019, Council Cabinet considered a report on the street cleaning service, as part of the SMARTER street cleaning review.
- 2.2. The review assessed the various elements of this statutory service against the Government's Litter Strategy for England, including general efficiencies and performance, bulky waste collections, fly tipping and A38 trunk road.
- 2.3. The first update report was considered in October 2019 and this further report details progress that has been made against the approved recommendations.

**3. Background**

- 3.1. A review of the Council's street cleaning service was undertaken during 2018/19, with Cabinet approving the following recommendations:
- a) That Cabinet recommends to Council that it considers the procurement of the Bartec street cleaning module, associated equipment and CCEO mobile working system as part of the MTFs budget setting process for 2019/20.

- b) That Cabinet note the concerns regarding cleanliness levels on A38 and agrees to proactively re-engage with Highways England on tackling littering, seeking their maintenance schedules and exploring the use of communication/advertising opportunities along this corridor to deter littering behaviour.
  - c) That Cabinet considers the charging options for the collection of bulky waste items as set out in paragraph 6.21 and approve the option at 6.21(e) to ensure cost recovery in line with Council policy.
  - d) That a six monthly update on street cleansing, education and enforcement activity be provided to Cabinet Members.
- 3.2. This update report details the progress that has been made in each of these areas.

#### **4. Contribution to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1. This decision supports the first and third corporate priorities:
- Value for Money Council Services – Protecting Your Money;
  - Protecting and Strengthening Communities – Love Where You Live.

#### **5. Report on Progress**

##### **Bartec Street Cleaning Module**

- 5.1. The works to upgrade the current back office and in-cab system are progressing well, which will facilitate the introduction of the street cleaning module. Data cleansing has been completed and the updated system is currently being tested by Bartec for introduction in early March. The necessary integration with the CRM system is also under test, with dates established for training of front line staff.
- 5.2. The order has been placed for the in-cab units and these will be installed shortly for operation. This will enable the street cleaning operatives to capture essential data on street cleanliness levels. This may then be used to develop cleansing schedules based on priority/need rather than historic cyclic rotas.
- 5.3. The litter bin location and type data has also been captured and will be populated into the new system.

##### **Cleanliness Levels on A38**

- 5.4. The previous report in October 2019 detailed the difficulties with undertaking litter picking on this high speed carriageway and the need to work in partnership with Highways England (HE) and their appointed contractor, Kier Highways (KH), to tackle this problem.
- 5.5. As previously reported, the northbound carriageway between Branston and Claymills has been tackled, removing a considerable amount of litter and waste.
- 5.6. In addition, the Council continues to visit the laybys on a fortnightly basis to clear these areas.

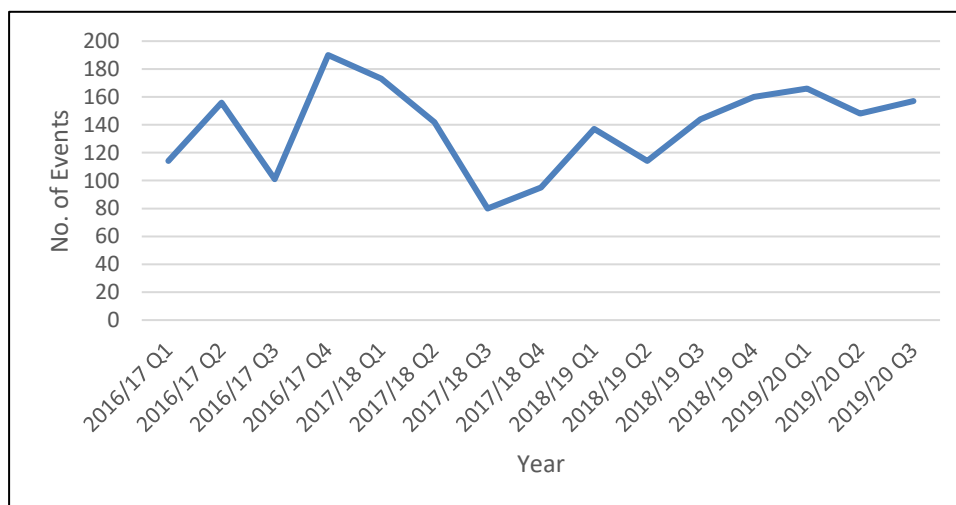
- 5.7. The previous update also indicated that the Council had received a letter from DEFRA confirming that A38 has received a 'passing grade' in their recent assessment under the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.
- 5.8. Further opportunities to work with Kier have not yet developed this financial year, although scheduled maintenance that requires road or lane closures generally occurs in the spring and summer months when lighting and weather conditions are at their best.
- 5.9. However, contacts with key personnel at both KH and Highways England have been established with a view to working in partnership as opportunities arise. It is anticipated that further cleaning works along this corridor will take place during 2020/21.

**Bulky Waste Charges**

- 5.10. The increase in bulky waste collection charges came into effect on 1 April 2019. Income generated for the financial year (to 31 January 2020) is £29k, compared to £25k for the same period in 2018/19.
- 5.11. The budget was increased by £16k to reflect the price increase so, at this stage, it appears that the full amount will not be achieved. However, in setting the budget, the following risk was noted:

*It is important to note that the figures assume no change to the annual number of requests/items collected for this service. In reality, this could vary annually.*

- 5.12. A key concern regarding the increase in charges related to a potential increase in fly tipping events. The 2018/19 review referred to BBC news report that was published in January 2019. The report demonstrated the range of charges being applied across the UK, ranging from free collections to £44 for a single item, and critically found no connection between the areas with the highest charges and the highest rates of fly tipping. It also referenced one local authority, Croydon, that had reintroduced free collections but, seven months later, had not experienced any reduction in their recorded levels of fly tipping.



**Figure 5.0 Number of Fly Tipping Events**

- 5.13. The number of events recorded per quarter for the period 2016/17 to date is shown in Figure 5.0 above. This will continue to be monitored.

### **Street Cleansing, Education and Enforcement**

- 5.14. Since the approval of the SMARTER street cleaning programme in February 2019, the Community and Civil Enforcement (CCE) team has now conducted initiatives in Stretton, Uttoxeter (and Heath), Anglesey, Horninglow, Burton, Stapenhill and Branston. These are designed to tackle the issues surrounding littering, fly-tipping and responsible dog ownership, and require multi-agency collaboration, including PCSO's, charitable organisations, local businesses, and local Councillors.
- 5.15. Dates have also been set for three further initiatives before the end of the financial year in Shobnall and Eton, along the Kingfisher Trail and in Brizlincote.
- 5.16. In the last six months the CCE team have recorded 350 jobs across the Borough with 251 relating to fly-tipping, 61 dog related, 12 bin related, 11 for anti-social behaviour, 8 for littering and the remainder for other issues such as parking and highways.
- 5.17. A brief summary of the outcomes from these initiatives is set out in Appendix 1.

## **6. Financial Considerations**

*This section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit: Anya Murray*

- 6.1. There are no financial issues arising from this Report.

## **7. Risk Assessment and Management**

- 7.1. The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:
- 7.2. **Positive** (Opportunities/Benefits):
- 7.2.1. The procurement of the street cleaning module supports the Council's overall performance in street cleaning, enabling the more efficient use of a finite level of resources.
- 7.2.2. Proactive engagement with Highways England will support cleanliness levels on the strategic road network through the Borough.
- 7.3. **Negative** (Threats):
- 7.3.1. An increase in bulky waste charges can lead to a reluctance to use the service, although the proposed charges remain very competitive in comparison to neighbouring Authorities. Alternative disposal methods are also available via the Household Waste Recycling Centres in Burton upon Trent and Uttoxeter.
- 7.3.2. All work on A38 must be undertaken in accordance with safe working procedures for high speed carriageways.
- 7.4. The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

## 8. **Legal Considerations**

*This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team:  
Angela Wakefield*

- 8.1. The main legal issues arising from this Report are as follows.
- 8.2. East Staffordshire Borough Council is defined as a 'principal litter authority' under Section 86 of the EPA with responsibility, under Section 89, to keep 'relevant land' and highways clear and clean of litter and refuse, so far as is practicable. In this context 'relevant land' is defined as '*land that is open to the air and is land which is under the direct control of such an authority to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment*'. It excludes private land and unadopted highways.

## 9. **Equalities and Health**

- 9.1. **Equality impacts:** The subject of this Report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.
- 9.2. **Health impacts:** The outcome of the health screening question does not require a full Health Impact Assessment to be completed. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

## 10. **Human Rights**

- 10.1. There are no Human Rights issues arising from this Report.

## 11. **Sustainability** (including climate change and change adaptation measures)

- 11.1. Does the proposal result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures) Yes
- 11.2. Please detail any positive/negative aspects:
  - 11.2.1. Positive (Opportunities/Benefits)

Improvements in street cleansing support the local environment in general. A reduction in litter/fly tipping results in an associated reduction in waste disposal. The proposed changes could reduce vehicle mileage as the fleet will be used more efficiently.
  - 11.2.2. Negative (threats)

N/A

## 12. **Recommendation(s)**

- 12.1. That Cabinet notes the progress that has been made against the previous recommendations for street cleaning.

## 13. **Background Papers**

- 13.1. None

14. **Appendices**

14.1. Appendix 1 – Summary of Educational and Enforcement Initiatives