

The Highland Council

**Transport, Environmental and Community Services Committee
26 May 2011**

Agenda Item	16
Report No	TEC 42/11

Review of Street Cleaning

Report by Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Summary

This report updates Members on progress in relation to the review of Street Cleaning and invites Members to agree the scope of the review.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Members will recall that the savings measures agreed by the Council as part of the Revenue Budget for 2011/12 & 2012/13 included a review of Street Cleaning. This report updates Members on progress and invites Members to agree the scope of the review.
- 1.2 It is proposed that the review will examine two main areas:
 1. "Zoning"
 2. Operational Practices
- 1.3 A Project Team, with representatives from the 3 Operational Areas has been set up to carry out the review. The Project Team reports to a Project Board chaired by the Director.
- 1.4 Operatives will also be consulted and will have the opportunity to put forward proposals to help achieve a more efficient service.
- 1.5 The Trade Unions have been consulted on these proposals and will continue to be consulted.

2. Review of Zoning

- 2.1 The Environmental Protection Act 1990 requires that, for the purpose of street cleaning, areas are categorised into Zones. Each Zone has a defined cleanliness standard and a response time to return the area to that standard in the event that the standard is not met.
- 2.2 In order to ensure the Council is complying with the relevant legislation it is essential that the litter Zones are allocated correctly, and that the approach is consistent across the Council.

- 2.3 The table in **Appendix A** (taken from the Environmental Protection Act 1990) shows categories, Zones, the cleanliness standard required for each, and the response times to return areas to the appropriate standard.
- 2.4 For example if the cleanliness of an Area designated as a Zone 1 falls to Cleanliness Standard B, we have 6 hours to return the Area to Standard A. If the same area falls to Cleanliness Standard C, we have 3 hours to return the area to Standard A.
- 2.5 The Cleanliness Standards are defined in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as:
- Standard A No litter or refuse.
- Standard B Predominantly free of litter and refuse, apart from a few small items.
- Standard C Widespread distribution of litter and refuse with minor accumulations.
- Standard D Heavily littered with significant accumulations.
- 2.6 It is proposed to take a report to the TECS Committee in August 2011 seeking Members approval for any changes to the current allocation of Zones following the detailed review.

3. Review of Operational Practices

- 3.1 In parallel with the review of the Zoning the Project Team will carry out a review of the operational practices. This will be closely linked to the Zoning as the allocation of Zones will affect the frequency of treatment and the hours of operation.
- 3.2 The main areas identified for the review are listed below:
- Hours of working including options for flexible working patterns
 - Potential for integration with other parts of the Service
 - Overall staffing levels
 - Options to increase utilisation of plant and equipment
 - Overall requirement for plant and equipment
- 3.3 Some of the proposals may require changes to existing working patterns and there has been early consultation with the Trade Unions. We will continue to consult with the Trade Unions as the review develops.

4. Proposed changes to Management Structure

- 4.1 Members will be aware of the proposals for management restructuring from an earlier report on the agenda.

- 4.2 The review of Street Cleaning will take account of the proposal to transfer the street cleaning function from the Head of Roads and Community Works to the Head of Waste Management (should Members approve the earlier recommendation), and will consider the arrangements for operational management and supervisory staffing structures.
- 4.3 It will be important to retain flexibility across the Service to allow resources to be used in the most effective way. For example street cleaning staff are currently involved in winter maintenance, and that will need to continue.

5. Implications

- 5.1 These proposals are intended to achieve savings.
- 5.2 There are no legal implications arising as a direct result of this report.
- 5.3 There are no equality implications arising as a direct result of this report.
- 5.4 There are no climate change implications arising as a direct result of this report.
- 5.5 There are no risk implications arising as a direct result of this report.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are invited to agree the scope of the review for Street Cleaning.
- 6.2 Members are invited to note that further reports will be taken to the TECS Committee in relation to "Zoning" and operational practices.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Transport, Environmental & Community Services

Date: 16 May 2011

Report Author: Debbie Maguire

Category	Zone	Cleanliness Standard			
ZONE	EPA 1990 part IV Sections 86 - 99	A	B	C	D
1	Town centres, shopping centres and shopping streets. Major transport centres, central car parks & other busy public places. Local roads around large secondary schools and FE colleges (1000+ students), local roads within these areas	6 hours			
		3 hours			
		1 hour			
2	High density residential areas (terraced, tenemental and flatted housing), busy recreational land, suburban car parks and transport centres. High density industrial estates, local roads around primary schools and small secondary schools (<1000 students), local roads within these areas	12 hours			
		6 hours			
		3 hours			
3	low density residential areas other recreational land including picnic areas and laybys other transport centres low density industrial estates high-technology business parks local roads within these areas	2 weeks			
		12 hours			
		6 hours			
4	rural / semi rural roads that do not directly link towns and villages public areas in and around rural and small suburban railway stations	2 weeks			
		1 week			
		60 hours			
5	recreation beaches sensitive conservation areas other beaches	1 May - 30 September			
6	motorways strategic routes	4 weeks			
		1 week			
7	rural roads linking towns and villages	2 weeks			
		5 days			
8	relevant land of designated educational institutions		24 hours		
			24 hours		
9	operational railway land		2 weeks		
			5 days		
10	canal towpaths to which the public has access		6 months		
			3 months		
11	land attracting large numbers of people for specific events only	2 weeks			
		5 days			