



Derby City Council

Council Cabinet
13 June 2018

ITEM 12

Report of the Strategic Director of Communities
and Place

Delivering Enhanced Activities to Support Streetpride Services

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Keeping the city streets and spaces clean and cutting grass both on verge areas and open spaces is a core function of the Council. Undertaking this work efficiently and effectively helps ensure that the city is attractive to residents, visitors and business.
- 1.2 Street Cleansing and grass cutting services are resource intensive. In previous years, due to budget constraints, the level of funding available for these functions has been reduced resulting in increased complaints
- 1.3 This report proposes a number of enhancements, totalling £185k per annum, to the current service levels which are intended to restore capacity, improve cleanliness across the city and within the city centre and to ensure that grass cutting frequencies are maintained.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To accept the proposed service enhancements and to agree to fund the initial costs in 2018/19 from budget risk reserve. Future years costs to be included as a pressure in the annual budget setting process.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The provision of enhanced cleansing and grass cutting activities will make a difference to the appearance of the city. Funding the additional resources from budget risk reserve initially will enable the services to bring in the necessary resources quickly.
- 3.2 It is important that any investment in enhanced resources is maintained in order to maximise benefits and returns. Securing on going funding beyond 2018/19, by adding a pressure to the budget setting process will help secure the longer term future of the investment.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Complaints about the grass cutting service were received last year. This largely reflected the reduction in grass cutting frequencies that had previously been introduced but it was further compounded by the wet summer which resulted in effectively a greater need for cutting than the service was able to provide.
- 4.2 To avoid similar complaints this year grass cutting activities were commenced early and resources have been diverted from other grounds maintenance activities to ensure that frequency of cutting can be maintained across the city. This current level of resourcing is unsustainable without additional funding being made available. To provide the minimum additional resource to maintain a higher level of cutting frequencies, to deliver three weed spraying operations each year and to provide additional operatives to remove grass cuttings from pavements will cost approximately £55k per annum.
- 4.3 Complaints were also received during 2017 about unemptied street bins, particularly in suburbs and district centres. Outside the city centre street bins are emptied to set frequencies and while in most cases these frequencies are sufficient there are times where bins fill more frequently, particularly associated with local events and activities. These street bins are currently emptied by a dedicated resource which is fully utilised on the current schedules. It is therefore proposed to increase the collection frequencies by adding additional resource to this area at a cost of £25k per annum. Ensuring that street bins are available more frequently will reduce the amount of litter on our streets.
- 4.4 The number of incidents of fly tipping across the city continues to be a concern. The Council has been challenging the behaviour of individuals through the deployment of waste minimisation officers who provide advice on how best to dispose of waste and Public Protection officers have been instigating prosecutions against offenders. Education and enforcement will provide long term benefits but we must also continue to clean up fly tipping when it takes place. To ensure that we can remove fly tipping quickly and efficiently, after an initial examination to assist with potential future prosecutions, we require additional resources. The provision of an additional removal team, consisting of two staff and a vehicle, will improve our response times and will assist us in supporting the enforcement actions. The expected cost of the enhanced team is £69k per annum.
- 4.5 The city centre, the focal point of many diverse activities, is an area where we strive to attain the highest cleansing standards for public spaces. A particular challenge for the service is early morning cleansing. The night time activities often generate high levels of street waste and ensuring that this is cleansed, prior to the start of the normal working day, requires a high level of resource. The current resource typically commences the daily scheduled cleansing activities but is often unable to complete the task fully. Street waste and litter which is not collected before the start of the working day provides a negative impact on those accessing the city centre.

- 4.6 Improving the level of resource available in the city centre, at an estimated cost of £36k per annum, combined with the additional resources set out above, will enable the service to be more resilient and to ensure that it is more consistently able to deliver its daily obligations and to present the city, each and every morning, in a clean state.
- 4.7 The proposals above set out a measured increase in resources to enable a change in service activities which is believed necessary. It is important, to minimise complaints and to ensure that the Council is delivering a quality service that funding for these activities is split fairly across the city and that the additional resources are maintained into the future. It is proposed that in the first instance that funding is provided from the budget risk reserve fund but ongoing funding needs to be secured as part of next years budget setting process.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 A number of potential options to reconfigure and reorganise the current services, to achieve efficiencies in order to deliver more with less, have been considered. The services deliver significant and varied street based functions that are all operating at capacity. Options to do more with less have been pursued previously and have created the challenges that are now trying to be addressed. This option has not been pursued
- 5.2 Continue with the current level of service provision. This would likely result in the same level of complaints continuing.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

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| Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s) | Amanda Fletcher, Head of Accountancy David Gartside, Acting Director Strategic Partnerships, Planning and Transportation Director, Communities, Environment and Regulatory Services |
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For more information contact:
Background papers:
List of appendices:

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None
Appendix 1

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| IMPLICATIONS |
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Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The cost of the enhanced resources included within the report is £185k per annum. This can be met from the budget risk reserve in 2018/19. The budget risk reserve is intended to enable in year budget pressures to be responded to.

- 1.2 Funding to continue the service in 2019/20 and beyond will need to be provided as part of the budget setting process. Should future years funding not be secured there will likely be some costs incurred in reducing resources.

Legal

- 2.1 None

Personnel

- 3.1 The services are dependent on staff to deliver much of the activity. The increase in resources being sought will include additional jobs being created.

IT

- 4.1 None

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 None

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None

Risk Management and Safeguarding

- 9.1 None directly arising

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1