



REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE
DATE:	13 th SEPTEMBER 2022
SUBJECT:	STREET CLEANING
PURPOSE:	TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT STREET CLEANING REGIME
KEY DECISION:	NO
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR EVANS, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
REPORT AUTHOR:	MATT FISHER, OPERATIONS MANAGER - NEIGHBOURHOODS
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL
EXEMPT REPORT?	NO

SUMMARY

This report provides Councillors with information on the current street cleaning regime in place in the Borough, including resources available, deployment of recent campaigns and associated street cleaning standards.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. Note the report

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- To provide information as requested by Members on the current street cleaning regime.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members requested information on the street cleansing service to understand the level of service currently in place, whether current resources are sufficient to address ongoing concerns regarding the level of cleaning in some areas of the Borough, such as a build-up of detritus in some areas of the town centre.

2.0 REPORT

- 2.1 The Council is defined as 'the principal litter authority' under Section 86 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, with responsibility under Section 89, to keep 'relevant land' and highways clear and clean of litter and refuse, so far as is practicable. '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'.
- 2.2 The Council can determine the standards of street cleansing as required (Section 89(3)), based on the character and use of the land and the measures which are practicable in the circumstances.
- 2.3 The Council's duty to keep land clean extends to 494 miles of adopted highway, or in cleansing terms 988 miles of highway.
- 2.4 There are 560 litter bins sited across the Borough including 361 litter bins located in the wider town centre area.

3.0 Resources

- 3.1 The Council reviewed its street cleansing service in 2020 as part of its Transformation Savings Plan. Efficiency savings of £70,000 per year were achieved, removing 1 x mechanical sweeper from the fleet and implementing a new staffing rota providing a 7 day service. The budget forecast for 2022/23 is £367,655, representing a cost per head of population of 10p per week, or £5 per year.
- 3.2 There are 9 full time equivalent employees (FTE) in the team; 3 x FTE mechanical sweeper drivers and 6 x FTE streetscene operatives. Employees work a 7 day rota over 37 hours per week. The rota ensures employees work no more than 10 days consecutively, working across weekdays and weekends. The start and finish times weekdays for sweeper drivers 05:15 to 13:15/14:15, litter pickers and litter bin operatives 06:00 to 15:00. Weekends 05:30 to 11:45 and 11:45 to 18:00. The rota is included in table 1.2 and 1.3.
- 3.3 The service operates 1 x 15 tonne large mechanical sweeper, 1 x 4.2 tonne mini sweeper and 3 x 3.5 tonne light commercial cage vehicles. Manual sweeping brushes, spades, long reach litter pickers and 2 x wheeled barrows are also used.
- 3.4 Other resources employed in the town centre which contribute to cleansing standards, include the Flyswat Team (2FTE), the BTAC Operatives (2.4FTE), and Enviro Crime Enforcement Officers (3FTE) from the outsourced service.

4.0 Cleaning schedule

4.1 The current street cleaning regime places a higher priority on areas with higher footfall and less priority to areas with lower footfall. Appendices A and B show a map of the town centre with the area of highest demand highlighted.

4.2 The town centre is cleaned every day:

- Weekdays - Monday to Friday; 2 x litter pickers, 2 x litter bin emptying and 2 x mechanical sweeper deployed between 06:00 and 09:00 carrying out litter picking, litter bin emptying and mechanical sweeping to accessible spaces. Following the morning sweep, employees divert to less priority areas across the Borough to carry out work duties.
- Weekends - Saturday and Sunday; 2 x litter pickers, 1 litter bin emptying, 1 x mechanical sweeper between 06:00 and 09:00. 2 x operatives carry out duties in the town centre until 18:00.

4.3 Cleaning duties include litter picking, litter bin emptying, mechanical sweeping and manual sweeping, graffiti removal and bin washing. Manual sweeping with a brush/barrow is carried out in areas with restricted access where mechanical sweepers cannot operate.

4.4 Table 1.1 provides information on the current staff rota across the whole of the borough.

Table 1.1

NAME	JOB / ROTA	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	HRS
Street Scene Operatives	1	06:00	06:00	06:00			05:30	05:30	
		15:00	15:00	15:00			11:45	11:45	
		8.5	8.5	8.5	0	0	5.75	5.75	37
	2	06:00	06:00	06:00	06:00	06:00			
		14:00	14:00	14:00	14:00	13:30			
		7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7	0	0	37
	3			09:00	09:00	09:00	11:45	11:45	
				18:00	18:00	18:00	18:00	18:00	
		0	0	8.5	8.5	8.5	5.75	5.75	37
	4	06:00	06:00	06:00	06:00	06:00			
		14:00	14:00	14:00	14:00	13:30			
		7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7	0	0	37
	5	06:00			06:00	06:00	05:30	05:30	
		15:00			15:00	15:00	11:45	11:45	
		8.5	0	0	8.5	8.5	5.75	5.75	37
	6	11:45	11:45	06:00	06:00	06:00			
		18:00	18:00	15:00	15:00	15:00			
		5.75	5.75	8.5	8.5	8.5	0	0	37
SPARE SHIFTS	WK 2 based on Mini SWEEPER						05:30	05:30	
							11:45	11:45	
		0	0	0	0	0	5.75	5.75	11.5
MON (WK2) COVER WHERE NEEDED - STREETS / SWEEPER - SHIFT CHANGE IF REQUIRED									
LGV (HVG) SWEEPER - TWO POSTS	1	05:15	05:15	05:15	05:15	05:15			
		13:15	13:15	13:15	13:15	12:45			
		7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7	0	0	37
	2	06:00	06:00	09:00			11:45	11:45	
		15:00	15:00	18:00			18:00	18:00	
		8.5	8.5	8.5	0	0	5.75	5.75	37
NOTE >	rotate on sweeper week on/week off - fill in on streets where needed when not on sweeper.								
MINI SWEEPER - ONE POST	1	05:15	05:15	05:15			05:30	05:30	
		14:15	14:15	14:15			11:45	11:45	
		8.5	8.5	8.5	0	0	5.75	5.75	37
	2	05:15	05:15	05:15	05:15	05:15			
		13:15	13:15	13:15	13:15	12:45			
		7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7	0	0	37
NOTE >	cover all streetscene jobs as and when required - wk/ends / sweeper off road								

4.5 Table 1.2 provides information on resources in place for each work activity across the whole of the borough.

Table 1.2

	MONDAY 23rd May	TUESDAY 24th	WEDNESDAY 25th	THURSDAY 26th	FRIDAY 27th	SATURDAY 28th	SUNDAY 29th
Litter Bin Route 1 (WEST)	6:00 - 2:00 CZC	6:00 - 2:00 CZC	6:00 - 2:00 CZC	6:00 - 2:00 CZC	6:00 - 13:30 CZC	05:30 - 11:45 CZC	05:30 - 11:45 CZE
	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative
Litter Bin Route 2 (EAST)	6:00 - 2:00 CZE	6:00 - 2:00 CZE	6:00 - 2:00 CZE	6:00 - 2:00 CZE	6:00 - 13:30 CZE		
	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative		
Litter Pick	6:00 - 3:00 CZD	6:00 - 3:00 CZD	6:00 - 3:00 CZD	6:00 - 3:00 CZD	6:00 - 3:00 CZD	05:30 - 11:45 CZD	05:30 - 11:45 CZD
	Two Operatives	Two Operatives	Two Operatives	Two Operatives	Two Operatives	Two Operatives	Two Operatives
Town Operative	11.45 - 6.00 OFC	11.45 - 6.00 OFC	9:00 - 6.00 OFC	9:00 - 6.00 OFC	9:00 - 6.00 OFC	11:45 - 18:00 CZD	11:45 - 18:00 CZD
	One Operative	One Operative	Two Operatives	One Operative	One Operative	Two Operatives	Two Operatives
Mini - Sweeper	05:15 - 14:15 GK20 UYN	05:15 - 14:15 GK20 UYN	05:15 - 13:15 GK20 UYN	05:15 - 13:15 GK20 UYN	05:15 - 12:45 GK20 UYN	05:30 - 11:45 GK20 UYN	05:30 - 11:45 GK20 UYN
	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative
HGV Sweeper	05:15 - 13:15 LT21 NDD	05:15 - 13:15 LT21 NDD	05:15 - 13:15 LT21 NDD	05:15 - 13:15 LT21 NDD	05:15 - 12:45 LT21 NDD	11:45 - 18:00 GK20 UYN	11:45 - 18:00 GK20 UYN
	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative	One Operative	NO PM SWEEPING	
Additional duties staff	06:00 - 13:00	06:00 - 13:00	06:00 - 13:00	06:00 - 13:00	06:00 - 13:00	6.30 - 8.30AM Central Park	6.30 - 8.30AM Central Park
						One Operative	One Operative

4.6 The rota does not allow all areas to be mechanically swept daily, for example, the lanes to the East and West of Market Place have restricted access and can only be swept manually. These areas include Grants Lane, Dolphin Lane, Cornhill Lane, Craythorne Lane, Sibsey Lane, Emery Lane, Church Close, Church Lane.

4.7 The Flyswat team is fully engaged in collecting flytips. In 2021/22, 3,413 fly tips were collected representing 13 fly tips collected by the crew each working day. An average of 97.5% of fly tips were collected within 3 working days.

4.8 The BTAC team provide an enhanced level of cleansing in the BTAC area. During COVID this team was deployed to support the wider cleansing work, but is now focusing on BTAC tasks. BTAC tasks include painting railings and redecorating street furniture, installing new furniture, cleaning graffiti, undertaking play equipment repairs, provide enhanced cleaning including litter bin cleaning, sign cleaning and provide support for events.

4.9 The Environmental Crime Enforcement team concentrate on taking proportionate enforcement action against individuals who commit waste related anti-social behaviour, such as littering and fly tipping. Since August 2019 this team have issued 3,624 fixed penalty notices.

5.0 Current pressures

- 5.1 Concerns have been raised recently about the build-up of detritus on back edges of highways, including the narrow alley ways leading into the Market Place and the amount of bird droppings, chewing gum and other staining present on highway surfaces. This relates to areas including West Street, Market Place, Emery Lane, Dolphin Lane, Cornhill Lane, Grants Lane.
- 5.2 Increased demands have been placed on the service in recent years:
- Housing growth – In the last 10 years, 2583 houses have been built across multiple new development sites. Future growth expectations for the next 10 years are an additional 2117 new build houses. New housing developments add to the highway network and increase our duty to clean and provide additional pressures on litter bin and litter picking provision.
 - Increased contact from Parish Councils, organisations and individuals, particularly with requests for additional litter/dog bins in the villages of Freiston, Wyberton, Kirton, Swinsehead, Kirton Holme, Fishtoft, and wards of Skirbeck, Fenside and Witham, Trinity. The number of litter bins provided in the Borough already require 2 x FTE operatives to empty 150 bins each weekday and 100 bins each weekend day.
 - Exceptional rates of fly-tipping have been experienced since the lock down, with an increase of 140%, although we are now reporting a downward trend in fly-tipping numbers which is a positive change.
 - Street cleansing employees assist with the town centre waste collection, including collecting bags of waste tipped daily from properties, 15,600 bags in a typical year.
- 5.3 The service has experienced real difficulty in the retention and recruitment of employees. In the past two years, 7 FTE out of the 9 FTE staffing establishment have left the service, with two failed recruitment exercises. The type of work in this service is difficult and not suitable for many seeking employment. The service has a reliance on temporary agency employees, currently covering vacancies and for illness and annual leave.

6.0 Improvement measures

- 6.1 The SELCP is currently working on developing a Litter and Fly Tipping Strategy across all three councils, linking to the national Litter Strategy for England 2017 adopted by Cabinet at its meeting of 21 February 2018. Whilst this is an emerging piece of work, it will support an intelligence led approach.
- 6.2 To provide data on standards, the Council is working towards introducing a Cleanliness Survey across the Partnership.
- 6.3 The development of the Pride in Boston initiative working with BTAC, to prevent resources being diverted from wider Borough areas into the town centre. The development of a Trusted Volunteer Scheme is linked to this initiative. The recent Pride in Boston targeted action in the town centre has had a positive effect on the street scene:



- 6.4 Emergence of volunteers including Litter champions and Wombles – the role our volunteers play in helping keep the Borough clean is positive and valued, their work in our community is exceptional. The street cleaning team supports the work of volunteers responding to requests for litter pickers and bags and collects on average an additional 2,400 bags per year from our volunteers. This will be further enhanced as we develop the Trusted Volunteer Scheme.
- 6.5 Cross departmental enforcement task group – Set up last year to bring together those teams together which can act to identify areas where black bagged waste is left on the street. This includes officers from the Environmental Health, Housing Standards and waste Enforcement teams.
- 6.6 Street cleansing action plan – the plan was agreed in 2021 as part of the Councils COVID recovery plans. Initiatives included within this plan are included in Table 1.3 below. Those shaded grey are completed:

Table 1.3 – Street Cleansing actions

1	Street cleansing initiatives
1.01	Increase surveillance for fly-tipping and litter for a 6-month period.
1.02	Introduce overt surveillance in hot spot areas
1.03	Introduce caught on camera initiative
1.04	Increase FPN to maximum amount of £400 for fly-tipping
1.05	Investigate ability to seize and crush vehicles used for fly-tipping with partner agencies
1.06	Provide additional support to community litter picks / wombles
1.07	Work with schools to support local community litter picks/ clean ups
1.08	Spring clean across zoned areas of the borough, using dedicated spring clean team and sweeper. Pavement cleaning – targeted areas around the town centre, and clean ups in outlying zones.
1.09	Purchase of 2 x electric pedestrian mechanically propelled sweepers with a suction hose to improve the team’s street sweeping ability in narrow streets in the town centre and in between parked cars.
2	Recovery Plan initiatives
2.01	Recruit additional fly/swat team
2.02	Big Boston Clean Up
2.03	Boston In Bloom – facilitated by BBC. Local partners deliver planting activity.
2.04	Princes Trust – area enhancements
2.06	Operation ‘Clean Sweep’, multi-agency, including Police, EA, HMRC
3	Complete Street Scene Transformation Programme
3.01	Recruit to streetscene vacancies
4	Review cleansing and sweeping operations
4.01	Street Scene software implementation – to identify and improve standards in street cleansing
4.02	Litter bin emptying round review
4.03	Sweeper round review

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 The service is actively pursuing and taking positive action to address street cleansing concerns, and maintain street cleansing standards, within the resources available.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

None

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Priority 1 - *People Focused*: Educate and enforce to improve the quality of rented properties in the Borough; Increase the promotion of Boston as a visitor destination and improve its public spaces.

Priority 3 – *Environmental Awareness and Accountability*: Proactively educate and enforce against environmental crime, such as fly tipping and littering, to both protect the environment and keep the Borough clean and tidy.

STAFFING

None

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 89(1) and (2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 imposes duties on certain land owners and occupiers to keep specified land clear of litter and refuse, and on local authorities to keep clean public highways for which they are responsible, so far as is practicable. The resulting Codes of Practice on Litter and Refuse discharge these duties

DATA PROTECTION

None

FINANCIAL

None

RISK MANAGEMENT

None

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

No consultation undertaken.

REPUTATION

Failure to clear litter and refuse from relevant land has a negative reputational impact on the Council.

CONTRACTS

None

CRIME AND DISORDER

Collecting and disposing of litter and fly-tipped waste improves the appearance of the borough and reduces the potential for anti-social behaviour.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Reducing the amount of litter and fly-tipped waste improves the appearance of the borough and improves the appearance of hot spot areas, contributing to the wellbeing of residents in areas of the Borough.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government's Levelling Up White paper.	
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

ACRONYMS

None

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
<i>APPENDIX A</i>	Litter bin, bin emptying and sweeping route. Town centre Route 1
<i>APPENDIX B</i>	Litter bin, bin emptying and sweeping route. Town centre Route 1

BACKGROUND PAPERS	
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -	
Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Environmental Protection Act 1990	Environmental Protection Act 1990 (legislation.gov.uk)
Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse	Code of practice on litter and refuse (publishing.service.gov.uk)

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT
A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Matt Fisher
Signed off by:	Victoria Burgess
Approved for publication:	Councillor Deborah Evans