

**REPORT OF: HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**TO: EXECUTIVE**

**DATE: 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025**

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## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW OF MECHANICAL STREET CLEANSING (COMPACT SWEEPERS)**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider and respond to Overview and Scrutiny recommendations following a review of the mechanical street cleansing (compact sweepers) service.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- (1) That the proposal to reduce the mechanical street cleansing resource by two vehicles and redeploy the drivers of those vehicles to litter pick the areas of need be agreed.
- (2) That the proposed programme following the Council's collection zone arrangements be accepted as detailed in the report.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Overview and Scrutiny have made its recommendations based on the evidence presented which supports the introduction of changes to the mechanical street cleansing (compact sweepers) service. The changes proposed respond to the changing operational environment and the needs of residents. They will enable a more effective service to be provided and will assist the Council in achieving targets within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

By introducing these changes, it will meet the Council's Priorities 1 and 2 in ensuring the Council is delivering value for money, listening to people and driving a customer focussed ethos, developing a service that is as effective and efficient as it can be and encouraging and fostering community pride for a safer, cleaner environment by protecting our parks and amenity areas through encouraging residents and visitors to take pride in our green, blue and surrounding urban, retail and commercial areas.

## ISSUE

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to carry out a review of the mechanical street cleansing (compact sweepers) service as it had been identified that the current compact mechanical street cleansing schedule may benefit from a change.

A Task and Finish Group was set up to gain a clear understanding of the current schedule of activity and to consider whether an amendment could make the service more efficient, reduce service costs, and therefore better deliver on the Council's priorities.

A meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and was attended by the Assistant Director, Operational Services who provided a report on the topic. The report included details of the current schedule of activity, along with costings, and provided evidence to support a proposed amendment to the service. The proposal was to reduce the mechanical resource by two vehicles and redeploy the drivers of those vehicles to litterpick the areas of need.

The Committee considered the financial implications set out within the report against the more effective service that would be delivered by the proposed change. The proposal meant that there would be a termination fee for two street cleansing vehicles and, at the time of the meeting, this information was still awaited, therefore an indicative figure was provided.

Figures were confirmed in a report following the meeting and are set out in the table below –

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
	£	£	£
<b>Cost of current provision</b>			
Annual Cost of hiring 5 sweepers (£24k pa per vehicle)	120,000	120,000	120,000
Insurance, Fuel, Tyres etc (£11k pa per vehicle)	55,000	55,000	55,000
	175,000	175,000	175,000
<b>Cost of proposed provision</b>			
Annual Cost of hiring 3 sweepers (£24k pa per vehicle)	72,000	72,000	72,000
Insurance, Fuel, Tyres etc (£11k pa per vehicle)	33,000	33,000	33,000
3.5t vehicle with tail lift	15,336	15,336	15,336
Insurance, Fuel, etc	6,000	6,000	6,000
Early Termination fees	54,784		
	181,120	126,336	126,336
Increased/(-)Decreased costs	6,120	-48,664	-48,664

It was confirmed that there would be no staffing impact.

After detailed consideration of the information presented in the reports and in answer to questions of the Group, it was concluded that, in response to changing operational environment and the needs of Pendle residents, a proposal to reduce the mechanical resource by two vehicles and redeploy the drivers of those vehicles to litterpick the areas of need would provide a more effective service to the residents of Pendle as well as assisting the Council in achieving targets within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

The Task and Finish Group reported its findings to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January, where the following recommendations were agreed for submission to the Executive –

## RECOMMENDATION

- (1) That the proposal to reduce the mechanical street cleansing resource by two vehicles and redeploy the drivers of those vehicles to litterpick the areas of need be agreed.
- (2) That the proposed programme following the Council's collection zone arrangements be accepted as follows -

### Week 1

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Routes 1	Routes 2	Routes 3	Routes 4	Routes 5
Routes 16	Routes 17	Routes 18	Routes 19	Routes 20
Route 11	Route 12	Route 13	Route 14	Route 15

### Week 2

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Route 6	Routes 7	Routes 8	Routes 9	Routes 10
Routes 21	Routes 22	Routes 23	Routes 24	Routes 25
Route 26	Route 27	Route 28	Route 29	Route 30

### Week 3

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Routes 1	Routes 2	Routes 3	Routes 4	Routes 5
Routes 16	Routes 17	Routes 18	Routes 19	Routes 20
Route 11	Route 12	Route 13	Route 14	Route 15

### Week 4

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Route 6	Routes 7	Routes 8	Routes 9	Routes 10
Routes 21	Routes 22	Routes 23	Routes 24	Routes 25
Route 26	Route 27	Route 28	Route 29	Route 30

Key: Zones 1 – 5 (weekly) - routes 1 – 10  
Zones 1 – 5 (fortnightly) - routes 11- 15  
Zones 6 – 10 (weekly) - routes 16 – 25  
Zones 6 – 10 (fortnightly) - routes 26 – 30

## REASON

***The evidence presented supports the introduction of changes to the mechanical street cleansing (compact sweepers) service. The changes proposed respond to the changing operational environment and the needs of residents. They will enable a more effective service to be provided and will assist the Council in achieving targets within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).***

***By introducing these changes, it will meet the Council's Priorities 1 and 2 in ensuring the Council is delivering value for money, listening to people and driving a customer focussed ethos, developing a service that is as effective and efficient as it can be and encouraging and fostering community pride for a safer, cleaner environment by protecting our parks and***

***amenity areas through encouraging residents and visitors to take pride in our green, blue and surrounding urban, retail and commercial areas.***

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Policy:**

None arising directly from this report.

### **Financial:**

Costs shown within the report identify that the introduction of a manual litterpicking service to support the mechanical resources would incur a penalty of £54,785.08 in year one if vehicles were off hired from January.

Ongoing savings created by the termination of contract hire agreement for two sweepers per financial year would be £70,000.

Off hire from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 would result in immediate savings on mechanical sweeping costs of £15,214 following payment of termination fee.

Annual hire of 3.5t pickup dependent on supplier quoted at £15,336 (£1,278 per month).

Fuel for 3.5t vehicle £6,000 per annum.

Cost for year 1 = £6,120.

Year 2 saving identified as £48,664.

### **Legal:**

None arising directly from this report.

### **Risk Management:**

None arising directly from this report.

### **Health and Safety:**

None arising directly from this report.

### **Sustainability**

Reducing the mechanical fleet and introducing manual resources would reduce reliance on appropriately qualified drivers to cover street cleansing roles. Catc1 + Driver CPC

### **Community Safety:**

None arising directly from this report.

### **Equality and Diversity:**

None arising directly from this report.

## **APPENDICES:**

Appendix 1 - Notes of the Task and Finish Group meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS** None