

**FOR PUBLICATION**

**MAINTENANCE OF FOOTPATHS AND PAVEMENTS**

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MEETING:	ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	02 FEBRUARY, 2016
REPORT BY:	WASTE AND STREET CLEANING MANAGER
WARDS:	ALL
COMMUNITY ASSEMBLIES:	ALL

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FOR PUBLICATION BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR PUBLIC REPORTS:	Nil
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**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To provide a final progress report on the review of the Streetscene and provide information on the specific questions that members of the committee have recently asked.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 A review of the Street Care service was undertaken by Dave Bennett and a Consultant, Rod Cooke, from APSE. The latter was acting as the interim manager for Landscape and Streetscene. The review looked at the way the service operated including utilising Webaspx technology to maximise routes.

2.2 As a result of this review significant changes were made to the routes that the workforce operate to and the frequency of operations in some areas were changed to reflect the needs of our customers.

2.3 The review achieved a saving of £100k.

- 2.4 Over the period since this review there has been no rise in the levels of complaints or other indications of dis-satisfaction. The workforce has taken on board all of the changes and continues to perform to what is required.
- 2.5 Given this it is clear that the review has been successful. With that said there is no further capacity at this time to make further efficiency savings and any requirement for savings now would need to be met by changes to the standards of service delivery.

### **3 RESPONSES TO RECENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- 3.1 Where does the responsibility lie for the maintenance of different types of pavements and footpaths?
- Further information is available at <http://www.iprow.co>. In easy terms the responsibility lies with the owner, so on private land it is the private owner, on public land this is the responsibility of Derbyshire County Council (DCC) where the path has been adopted and for rights of way.
  - Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) is responsible for paths that have not been adopted.
  - CBC undertakes the cleaning of most of the adopted paths on an agency basis whereby DCC retains the legal responsibility but discharges this through the service level agreements with CBC.
  - Non-adopted paths such as those within parks are the responsibility of CBC. All of our responsibilities are discharged through Environmental Services.
- 3.2 Who should be contacted with concerns about pavements and footpaths?
- Private paths: private land owners, or if causing an obstruction to public access then DCC
  - Non-adopted paths not in private ownership: CBC Environmental Services
  - Adopted paths and rights of way: DCC unless it relates to the standard of work undertaken, then CBC, Environmental Services
- 3.3 What are the current plans or protocols for the maintenance of footpaths and pavements within the borough?

- All adopted paths are swept mechanically twice per annum as a minimum. Much higher frequencies are utilised for high footfall areas. For example in the town centre and around local shopping areas. This is the same for manual clearance.
- Additional clearance visits can be requested and where resources permit and a site visit confirms the need this will be arranged. Where a schedule visit is imminent an additional cleanse will not be undertaken except in exceptional circumstances.
- Requests may be made by a member of the public and/or local councillors.
- Leaf clearance and weed spraying will be completed as required and for the latter, spraying is twice per annum.
- Maintenance of hedges or other vegetation or obstacles that block access from adjoining land is the responsibility of the land owner. DCC cut back vegetation on the rights of way that they have responsibility for once a year.

3.4 What budget does Chesterfield Borough Council have for maintaining footpaths and pavements?

- The weed spraying recharge to DCC is £24K per annum. Budgets for cleansing activities are geared around the whole street scene to include roads, verges, open spaces and the servicing of litter bins etc. so discrete headings for footpath and pavement maintenance do not exist.
- The entire street cleansing recharge currently stands at £1.1m per annum of which £400K is perhaps attributable to path/paved/pedestrianised areas.

3.5 What powers does the council have to ensure footpaths or pavements on private land are maintained where there is a public right of way over that land?

- None, however DCC would deal with vegetation that is blocking a public right of way.

## **4 CONCLUSION**

4.1 The actions taken as a result of the review undertaken in 2011/12 have been successfully embedded within the service ensuring that the £100k of savings has been achieved with minimal impact on standards and no identifiable adverse trend in satisfaction.

However, there is not further capacity for savings without due consideration of service delivery standards.

Further information regarding this report can be obtained from Dave Bennett, Waste and Street Cleaning Manager Tel: 01246 345122