

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 13 FEBRUARY 2014

REPORT ON: RATIONALISATION OF LITTER REMOVAL OPERATIONS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

REPORT NO: 107-2014

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To outline proposals to reduce future costs relating to the removal of litter in streets, parks and areas of open space.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that a comprehensive review of the litter picking routes and systems across all of the various council areas of open space be undertaken and rationalised to reduce the future operational costs, whilst complying with the relevant code of practice.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The review and redesign of litter picking routes will result in a reduction in maintenance costs of £231k in 2013/14 with further savings in future years.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Recent benchmarking data provided by SOLACE has indicated that whilst Dundee City Council provides a high standard of street cleanliness, it also has the second highest cost per head of population of all Scottish local authorities for street cleansing. An initial review has been undertaken of the existing street cleansing operations and a number of efficiencies identified.
- 4.2 At present there are four separate litter picking programmes undertaken covering the city's streets, play areas, public parks and open spaces. These existing arrangements are largely for historic reasons. Following the integration of all of these functions within the Environment department, there is now an opportunity to rationalise and integrate many of these routes and to significantly increase operational efficiency.
- 4.3 In addition to the integration of different programmes, there is further opportunity to redesign and rationalise the existing 56 street cleaning routes that are in place across the city to generate further efficiencies, whilst ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.
- 4.4 In 2014/15 savings of £231k will be achieved by the integration of the play area routes within the adjoining street cleaning routes along with a reduction in the number of temporary posts required for holiday cover and some minor changes to some of the street cleaning routes. These savings will result in the reduction of 10 FTE's, to be achieved through VER and the reduction of 4 temporary posts. In addition, four vehicles will be removed from operations.
- 4.5 A more detailed review of all of the street cleansing routes will be undertaken to ensure that these are rationalised and brought into line with the Code of Practice and integrated with the other litter picking functions being undertaken across the city. This review will provide further savings in future years.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environment Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

Ken Laing
Director of Environment

January 2014

Gary Robertson
Head of Environmental Management

January 2014