

**REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - 10 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**REPORT ON: LEAMS (LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM) REPORT**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

**REPORT NO: 328-2012**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Committee of the 2011/2012 LEAMS (Local Environmental Audit and Management System) Report, a statutory performance indicator of street cleanliness for local authorities in Scotland.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee are asked to note the results during 2011/2012 and the ongoing work by the Department in improving the quality of the external environment and promoting community pride in the City.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The LEAMS audit is a statutory performance indicator that relates to street cleaning for local authorities in Scotland. During the 2011/2012 financial year, seven cleanliness surveys were conducted within the Dundee City Council area. Four of the surveys were undertaken internally, two were conducted by visiting partner authorities and one was conducted by Keep Scotland Beautiful.
- 4.2 The surveys record the cleanliness of the streets and record a range of information including for example, type of litter, cleanliness grade, source of litter bins and local environment quality.
- 4.3 The overall cleanliness index for the city has increased by three index points from 72 in 2010/11 to 75 in 2011/12. The overall cleanliness index of 75 is the highest achieved since Dundee City Council have used the LEAMS methodology to gauge street cleanliness standards. A score of 75 is two points higher than the national urban average.
- 4.4 The LEAMS audit report provides a detailed overview of the findings of the survey and the following key findings are noted:
  - Increase in litter free transects (28.3%) since last year;

- No transects recorded at a grade C or D standard (lowest grades), for second year in succession;
- Slight reduction from last year in sites affected by litter associated with drinks (29.4%), confectionery (26.1%) and fast food (6.3%);
- Dog fouling has decreased from 5.6% in 2009/10 to 1.4% in 2011/12
- Reduction in significant/severe incidents of detritus (51% reduction)

4.5 Following the creation of the new Environment Department in July 2011, a number of key actions and initiatives have been implemented or are in the course of implementation, aimed at improving the quality of the external environment, including:

- Formation of area based multifunctional maintenance teams with responsibility for all maintenance activities within their geographic area;
- Use of the community pay back teams to assist in various local programmes;
- The provision of additional temporary litter bins at hotspots such as Castle Green and Magdalen Green, to deal with peaks in demand during hot sunny periods;
- Increasing the public awareness of litter and dog fouling in cemeteries and parks as well as rolling out the 'Pride in our Parks' campaign introduced within Camperdown Park with plans to roll out across the city;
- The provision of additional animal exclusion signs for Broughty Ferry Beach;
- Increased vigilance and enforcement in responding to complaints regarding dog fouling, littering and fly-posting. Plans are being developed to extend this yet further;
- Developing opportunities to work in partnership with community groups and organisations such as Zero Waste Scotland working to continue to improve the cleanliness of the city; and
- The policy for the treatment of roadside weeds has been reviewed and the treatment increased from one cycle to two cycles per annum. This will take a bit of time to realise the benefit and is being hampered by the weather this year and the limitations of the herbicides currently on the market which have been significantly reduced in strength for environmental reasons.

4.6 The LEAMS index rating of 75 is a very high standard for an urban authority such as Dundee. There will be a significant challenge in continuing to achieve this level of performance, however the Environment Department is committed through the roll out of the various initiatives detailed above to achieving the highest rating possible utilizing all available resources.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of sustainability, Strategic Environment Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equal Impact Assessment and Risk Management, no major indicators have been identified.

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted on this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 LEAMS (Local Environmental Audit and Management System) Report 2011/2012

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Date: 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012