

3 INTRODUCTION OF A SECOND RAPID RESPONSE TEAM AND CLEANING EQUIPMENT (AN398-2003)

Reference is made to Article II of the Policy and Resources Committee of 20 January 2003 when £100,000 was approved to introduce a second Rapid Response Team for graffiti removal as part of the Council's 2003/04 Quality of Life submission.

Currently the existing Rapid Response Team clean graffiti from public buildings and properties such as bus shelters, litterbins etc, but do not carry out work on other Council owned properties unless work is specifically ordered by the responsible Department.

The team is also limited to removing graffiti from certain types of surfaces, for example, painted surfaces are not cleaned because the action of the remover and pressure washer removes the underlying painted surface.

The introduction of a second Rapid Response Team along with associated equipment will allow work of this nature to be programmed and possibly extended to include the painting of surfaces which cannot be pressure washed. This would be subject to discussion and agreement from other Departments affected by this proposal.

By separating the Rapid Response Team functions, the existing team would be able to extend their current remit to respond to other environmental complaints.

The proposal includes the purchase of a dedicated vehicle and a high speed pavement sweeping machine to improve the standards of street sweeping in shopping areas throughout the City and City Centre area. The purchase of this equipment will be subject to a separate Committee report.

It is recommended the Committee approves the above action.