



Leicester  
City Council

Minute Extract

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2006 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Connelly - Chair  
Councillor Mrs. Maw – Conservative Spokesperson

Councillor Hall

Councillor Shelton

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**39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda and/or indicate that Section 106 applied to them. No declarations were made.

**40. APOLOGIES**

The Town Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Councillor Beck, Henry and Karim.

**46. CITY CLEANSING**

The Scrutiny Committee received a verbal report that outlined the financial costs and staff arrangements for street cleaning in the City. It was explained that the City was divided into three areas the City Centre, Inner City and Districts, which were allocated different cleaning resources. It was noted that the City Centre area was swept 5 times a day and the inner City once a day on weekdays.

It was reported that in the two city areas there were 45.6 staff from Monday to Saturday and on Sunday 4 staff at 5 hours, at a total annual cost of £1.1 million. In the districts there were 70.4 staff Monday to Saturday and 11 staff on Sunday at 5 hours, at a total annual cost of £1.6 million. There were 62 staff in other functions at a annual cost including vehicles of £1.4 million and additional services which included City Central Streets gum removal and highway weed spraying which were contracted out at an annual cost of £60,000 and £55,000. The overall annual budget for the service came to £6,893,300. With the internal income at £2,006,900 and external at £879,100, the net budget was £4,007,300. The profit from external income contributed

approximately £200,000 to core street cleaning services.

It was noted that in the 2006/2007 financial year an additional £150,000 had been prioritised towards the service and it was suggested that without this contribution in 2007/2008 it would not be possible to maintain current standards.

It was reported that there had been changes within the service since the Compulsory Competitive Tending (CCT) in 1992, Staff had been reduced from 390 to 178 which had been a result of mechanical sweeping devices and efficiency cuts. There had been reductions in the annual budgets by £700,000, which had resulted in the removal of toilet attendants, the afternoon mobile team and the night shift. Since this time there had been growth within the City, and as a result the Inner City Centre team had gained an additional 3 staff and certain residential areas had gained 5 staff. The City Cleansing team absorbed the additional costs of this growth within the existing budget. It was suggested that the future growth of the City Centre could increase expectations, especially in areas such as the Cultural Quarter, Shires extension and Waterside.

Officers suggested two possible improvement options for the street cleaning service. Firstly an enhanced Sunday cleaning service with an additional approximate cost of £50,000, it was noted that there had been difficulties in recruiting for Sunday working. Secondly for street washing and the removal of gum from pavements, which had an additional annual cost for the City of £120,000 and £400,000 for the districts. The schedule had only included pedestrian areas in the City Centre and it was felt that it would be beneficial to include additional City Centre streets (or the frequency be increased) and add district locations, such as shopping areas and main roads.

Members sent their thanks to the team for the care that they take and hard work.

In response to a question from Members it was reported that the level of funding was anticipated to be maintained within the existing areas, including the cultural quarter. It was suggested that the level of public expectation for the cleanliness of these areas would increase with the improvements to buildings. It was noted that there may need to be an increase to the budget for Waterside.

Members expressed concern that the regeneration of City areas that previously had limited public use would cause a strain on the existing cleansing resources, which would be of detriment to other areas and the current standard. Members suggested that city cleansing on Sundays was limited, especially with the increase in Sunday shopping and possible events in the Cultural Quarter and it was felt that extra resources would be necessary. Officers agreed that the Sunday service was limited and investment would be welcomed.

Members suggested that cleansing service budgets be increased and the boundary of the City Centre Cleansing area be extended to include the Cultural Quarter. It was felt that to compliment the regeneration of the City the streets

would need to be kept to an adequate clean standard to encourage visitors to return and maintain public expectations.

Resolved:

- 1) that Cabinet be requested to allocate extra funds towards additional street cleansing to accommodate the extra pressure from changes in shopping habits, the development of the City Centre Cultural Quarter and the Shires extension and towards the Sunday service within the budget allocation 2007/2008.
- 2) that Cabinet be requested to extend the boundary of the City Centre Cleansing team to include the Cultural Quarter and to allocate funds accordingly.