



Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
Castle

Cabinet

1 October 2007

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## **NEW CITY CENTRE STREET CLEANING TEAM**

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### **Report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture**

#### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval for proposals to improve street cleaning in the city centre.

#### **2 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 This report proposes service improvements that will radically change the way that the city centre is cleaned. Under these proposals, a new "Cleaner City Team" team of 12 staff will be established, to provide additional manual cleaning resources to within the pedestrianised core of the city centre during peak hours, including Sundays. As well as reducing the dependency on mechanical sweepers within this core area, the team will employ a wider range of cleaning techniques to improve the overall standard of cleanliness within the city centre.

#### **3 RECOMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the proposals for improving street cleaning in the city centre, as set out in this report, are approved;
- 3.2 That an additional budget of £132k be allocated to R&C for 2007/08; and
- 3.3 That an additional £200k on going revenue costs be included in budget plans for 2008/09 onwards.

#### **4 REPORT**

- 4.1 Recent investments are dramatically improving the quality of the city centre street-scene and it is important that the level of street cleaning is enhanced to maintain the appearance of these areas. The nature of the city centre is also evolving and becoming more vibrant and lively on a 24 hour, 7 day a week basis and the arrangements for keeping streets clean need to be updated to reflect these changes.
- 4.2 It is therefore proposed that a new approach is taken to street cleaning in the city centre, particularly in the pedestrianised core and busiest areas of the city centre (see map appended). A new "Cleaner City Team" will be introduced from 8th October 2007, providing an increased focus on using people, rather than machines, to keep these areas clean during the busiest times of the day.

- 4.3 The team will comprise an additional 12 members of staff whose working arrangements will ensure that approximately 8 staff will be working from 08.30am to 4.00pm daily (Monday to Sunday). At the present time only limited cleaning is provided on Sunday mornings, so this will greatly improve standards of cleanliness on Sundays in particular.
- 4.4 This team will adopt new working techniques: As well as generally sweeping the streets, they will undertake a range of other cleaning duties, e.g. mopping-up spillages, removing stains, washing in and around nooks & crannies, keeping street furniture clean, emptying litter bins, etc. They will be equipped with a range of cleaning equipment, e.g. boxes & brushes, scrubbing brushes, cleaning cloths, and a supply of water. They will not use vehicles; instead hand barrows will be used for transporting equipment and rubbish.
- 4.5 The Team will also be encouraged to communicate and work with the public and city centre businesses, e.g. responding immediately to problems drawn to their attention. For this reason the Team will wear distinctive new black and orange uniforms to help make them more visible to the public and to help promote awareness of the importance of keeping the city centre clean.
- 4.6 The mechanical vacuum sweepers used throughout the city are an efficient means of sweeping street surfaces and are particularly good at removing fine dust and litter, particularly cigarette ends (which can be very difficult to sweep-up manually when they get stuck in crevices). However, they are harder to operate on busy pavements full of shoppers and can be very intrusive in these situations. The mechanical sweepers are also not that good at working in tight spaces, e.g. on and around street furniture, nooks and crannies, etc. Hence, additional manual street cleaners will help overcome these limitations.
- 4.7 This new team's work will therefore be complementary to and co-ordinated with other city centre cleansing services: The mechanical vacuum sweepers and the new street washing machine (approved by Cabinet on 3rd September 2007) will focus on providing a thorough clean-up first thing in the morning, focusing on the city centre core area between 6.00am and 8.30am (11.00am on Sundays), thereafter moving out to the outer areas of the city centre and allowing the new "Cleaner City Team" to keep the core area clean during the peak daytime hours. The mechanical sweepers will then return to the core area from 4.00pm to 7.30pm (Mon – Sat) to provide a final sweep towards the end of the day.
- 4.8 It is hoped that these improvements in city centre street cleaning will encourage everyone to help keep the city centre clean and attractive. Nevertheless, Street Enforcement Officers will continue to patrol the city centre regularly and will issue litter fixed penalty notices to anyone who undermines these efforts.

## **5 FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### ***Financial Implications***

- 5.1 The total cost of the new team, including staffing, equipment, consumables, uniforms and initial set-up costs is estimated to be approximately £132,000 for the remainder of 2007/08, which will require an additional revenue budget. The on-going revenue implications associated with these new arrangements will be fully assessed as part of the citywide review of street cleaning that will be completed this year. However, it is anticipated that the annual revenue costs of this element of new service are likely to be

approximately £200,000 per annum. This will be included as a budget proposal for 2008/09.

- 5.2 This is one of a number of a limited number of early policy developments with financial implications others being reported to Cabinet in September 2007. The £132,000 cost in 2007/08 will be met from the uncommitted balance on the capital fund.

*Martin Judson, Head of Resources (252 7390)*

**Legal Implications**

- 5.3 The Council's street cleaning powers are contained in the Environmental Protection Act 1990, with the responsibility for keeping City Council land clear of litter and refuse. This links also to the duty contained in the Highways Act to maintain highways. The proposals accord with the statutory provisions and Government guidance contained in the Code of Practice on litter and refuse.

*Anthony Cross, Head of Litigation (252 6362)*

**6 Other Implications**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph references within the report
Equal Opportunities	No	
Policy	Yes	5.2
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	

**7 Report Author**

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**DECISION STATUS**

<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Reason</b>	N/A
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	N/A
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)

# Proposed City Centre Core Area

