

**ENHANCED CLEANSING SERVICES PROPOSALS FOR MARKET TOWNS
(Report by the Operations Manager)**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2008, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered a report on proposals for an enhanced Sunday cleansing services in St Ives, Huntingdon, St Neots, Ramsey and Godmanchester. The proposal was to undertake a cleansing service in these areas from 06.00 to 10.00 using a combination of mechanical Sweepers, litter picking, and the emptying of litterbins situated on a number of identified streets. The areas proposed are detailed in Appendix 1. The annual cost of providing this enhanced service in 2008 was £52,400.

1.2 Following receipt of the report from Overview and Scrutiny Panel, Cabinet made the following recommendations at their September 2008 meeting:

(a) that the Overview and Scrutiny Panel be requested to investigate further the introduction of Sunday cleansing services in light of the Cabinet's views above and to prepare a proposal for consideration as part of the Council's Medium Term Plan in due course;

(b) that financial contributions towards the cost of implementing additional cleansing be sought from the various Town Councils; and

(c) that the use of Alcohol Disorder Zones be investigated

1.3 This report provides an update on the current situation.

2. CURRENT SITUATION

2.1 Since the original report was prepared in 2008, the financial situation in which the Council finds itself has worsened. Street cleansing services are currently one of the service areas which have been identified for a possible service reduction. If this is implemented then the resources available to undertake this work will be stretched. Currently the majority of street cleansing staff are on a Monday to Friday contract, and work undertaken at weekends is voluntary overtime. In summer especially we find it difficult on occasions to find sufficient staff to work at weekends at our current levels of cleansing and often have to rely on supervisory staff to assist. Increasing the amount of resource required on Sunday's will either result in a re-negotiation of contracts with staff to include weekend working, which will reduce their availability during the week for other work, or rely on resourcing enough staff voluntarily. If the street cleansing services are reduced overall as part of the budget negotiations then the pool of staff and equipment on which to carry out this additional work becomes more limited.

- 2.2 In light of the current budget proposals there may be the opportunity in the future to look at what services, or elements of the service could be carried out by the Town Councils and if the opportunity arises this will be discussed further with them.
- 2.3 It should be noted that a Sunday street cleansing service is carried out anyway by the Council in Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots using a compact sweeper and one additional operative for 3 hours in each town and one man in Ramsey. This resource covers the main shopping areas in each town, sweeping, litter picking and emptying bins. Very few complaints have been received recently in relation to problems being experienced with litter at other times of the day.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Since the original proposal was put forward, the economic conditions have changed and any provision of an enhanced Sunday cleansing service needs to be considered in the context of the whole cleansing service and the knock-on effect it could potentially have if resources are reduced.
- 4.2 Sunday cleansing is being carried out in the towns and very few complaints are received about standards in these areas even with the increase in the night time economy. Standards as required under the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse are being met using the current arrangements.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That further progress on the recommendations from Cabinet in September 2008 is postponed until a decision is taken on any likely reduction in street cleansing services
- 5.2 Any future review of the street cleansing service takes into account possibly opportunities for providing this service if contributions can be negotiated from the Town Councils

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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St Ives Compact mechanical sweeper, plus a response team of 3 undertaking litter picking and emptying of litter bins.

St Ives	
The Waits	The Broadway
Crown Street	Merryland
Bridge Street	The Quay
The Pavement	Market Hill
White Hart Lane	Sheep Market
Market Road	Station Road
Cattle Market Car Park	

Huntingdon Compact mechanical sweeper, plus a response team of 3 undertaking litter picking and emptying of litter bins.

Huntingdon	
High Street	Ferrars Road
George Street	Royal Oak Passage
Market Hill	Princes Street
Literary Walk	St Marys Street
Hartford Road	St Benedicts Court
Chequers Court	St Germain Walk
Trinity Place	Chequers Way
Brewery Yard	St Germain Street Car Park
Brewery Yard	

St Neots Compact mechanical sweeper, plus a response team of 3 undertaking litter picking and emptying of litter bins.

St Neots	
St Neots Road	High Street
Cambridge Street	Huntingdon Street
Tebbutts Road	New Street
Church Street	Brook Street
South Street	St Marys Street
Priory Lane	Tan Yard
Bec Road	The Priory
Priory Lane Car Park	Waitrose Tan Yard Car Park
Market Square West	Market Square South

Ramsey & Godmanchester Response team of 2 undertaking litter picking and emptying of litter bins

Godmanchester	
Causeway	Post Street
Old Court Hall	Cambridge Street

Ramsey

Great Whyte	Little Whyte
High Street	New Road
Mews Close Car Park	