

The Executive

On 13th June 2006

Report Title:

Executive Response to Scrutiny Review of Street Sweeping and Cleanliness

Report of: Andrew Travers, Director of Environmental Services

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Key decision

1. Purpose

1.1 To set out the Executive's response to the report of the Scrutiny Review of Street Sweeping and Cleanliness.

2. Introduction by Executive Member

2.1 As well as reaping the common benefits of a cleaner borough, Haringey Council is legally obliged, as a Principal Litter Authority under the Environmental Protection Act (1990), to keep certain areas, including public highways, housing land, parks, and open spaces, reasonably clear of litter and refuse.

2.2 This report is brought to the Executive to note the recommendations made during the Scrutiny Review of Street Sweeping and Cleanliness and agree the responses outlined so as to allow them to be incorporated into the Streetscene service's plan for 2007/08.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Executive agree the response.

3.2 That the Executive agrees that the agreed recommendations are incorporated within the Streetscene Business Plan for 2007/08 and that progress is reported regularly to the Environment Scrutiny Panel.

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4. Executive Summary

4.1 The Executive welcomes the report of the Scrutiny Review of Street Sweeping and Cleanliness.

4.2 The Scrutiny Review Panel concentrated on the following issues:

- The arrangements and methodologies in place for client-side monitoring of the performance of street sweeping services.
- The strategies currently in place for delivering street cleaning services, how they contribute towards achieving cleanliness targets, and how they need to change to meet the challenge of BVPI 199 and CPA upper and lower thresholds.
- The targeted strategies for litter prevention and enforcement in different parts of the borough, and for different kinds of litter, eg takeaway refuse, cigarettes, flyposting, leaves etc.
- The anti-litter and street cleanliness campaigns in the borough provided locally through Better Haringey and nationally by ENCAMS.

4.3 A range of recommendations were made for these issues and this report details the Executive response.

5. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Environmental Protection Act, 1990

Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse

DEFRA BVPI 199 Guidance Manual

Integrated waste Management and Transport Contract

Audit Commission, Technical Guide to CPA 2005

7. Background

7.1 Haringey Council is a Principal Litter Authority and as such has a duty under the Environmental Protection Act, 1990 (EPA) to keep relevant land for which it is responsible clear of litter and refuse. Relevant land includes public highways, housing land and parks and open spaces.

7.2 For public highways and housing land the duty is undertaken through the Integrated Waste Management and Transport Contract (IWMT contract). The IWMT contract was awarded to Haringey Accord Ltd in December 2001 for a term of 8 years, with the option of a 7-year extension. The Waste Management Service is the client for the IWMT contract. Since the contract was awarded, there has been a major change in the criteria used to determine how well Litter Authorities are performing in keeping their land clean.

- 7.3 The IWMT contract has performance measures based on the Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse. The new performance measure for cleanliness is Best Value Performance Indicator 199. The difference between these measures is that the Code is based only litter levels, whereas BVPI 199 is based on both litter and detritus levels (detritus being grit, sand, dirt, etc). The new performance measure requires completion of work to a higher level of cleanliness and this provides Litter Authorities with greater challenges.
- 7.4 It is important for the council to achieve good BVPI 199 scores because this one of the measures used to determine the council's CPA rating.

8. Description

8.1 Response to the recommendations:

In total there are 12 recommendations. Most of the recommendations relate to the provision of services by the Waste Management Service. Several relate to other services, namely the Enforcement Service and Better Haringey. The responses to the recommendations are detailed in the table attached to this report as Appendix 1. Those responses that have been provided by the Enforcement Service and Better Haringey are referenced as such and are in italicised lettering.

9. Consultation

- 9.1 The Scrutiny Panel called in an expert witness from ENCAMS, formerly the Tidy Britain Group, to provide an external challenge to the review.
- 9.2 Where the agreed recommendations involve changes to service delivery, consultation will be conducted as appropriate.

10. Summary and Conclusions

- 10.1 This review has highlighted the challenge faced by the council in providing an environment which is not only clean in the eyes of residents, but is also clean enough to meet BVPI 199 standards and exceed CPA lower and upper thresholds to maintain and improve the council's overall CPA rating.
- 10.2 This review has reinforced the need for cross-service co-operation to improve cleanliness standards. It is not sufficient to expect that the street sweeping service provider alone can deliver high standards of cleanliness. Exercising enforcement powers and having comprehensive litter prevention campaigns will have an important part to play in improving cleanliness levels.
- 10.3 The quality and design of the street scene infrastructure has a direct impact on the level of cleanliness which can be achieved. Uneven paving and poorly designed surfaces can be difficult to clean. Working with the Highways Service to achieve good quality, well designed infrastructure, will contribute towards better cleanliness.

- 10.4 The implementation of the recommendations in this report will contribute towards a cleaner borough and ensure that the standards of cleanliness achieved will meet BVPI 199 requirements and CPA thresholds. It should be recognised that in order to reach top quartile performance for standards of cleanliness, it is likely that additional expenditure will be required both in terms of infrastructure improvements and in terms of front-line service provision.

11. Recommendations

- 11.1 The Executive is asked to consider and endorse the response to the Scrutiny Review.
- 11.2 The Executive requires progress against all of the agreed actions to be reported back to the Environment Scrutiny Panel at agreed intervals.

12. Comments of Head of Legal Services

- 12.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted, supports the recommendations and comments that the provisions of Part 3 of Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act relating to litter and refuse have now come into force. While the report's recommendations have resource implications, some targeted hot spot enforcement and publicity relating to the new powers will assist in achieving the objectives.

13. Comments of Director of Finance

- 13.1 A number of the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Review Panel have financial implications for the Council for which there is currently no budget provision. Therefore, although the recommendations can be agreed in principle, those giving rise to additional costs cannot be implemented until funding has been clearly identified and approved by members. This is particularly the case for recommendations 2, 5, 6, 9 and 12. Bids for additional resources in respect of these proposals may be made as part of the Council's budget process for 2007/08 to 2009/10. Resources required to implement recommendation 2 could be quite significant and these measures may need to be phased in over several years. If bids are successful the new measures can start to be brought in from 2007/08.
- 13.2 Proposals contained within recommendations 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 can be progressed within existing approved budgets for waste management and transport.

14. Equalities Implications

- 14.1 The implementation of the recommendations in this report will ensure that residents in all different parts of the borough benefit from good standards of cleanliness.