Street Cleansing Task Group Notes

Notes of the meeting of the Street Cleansing Task Group held on Monday 19 September 2011 at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Street Cleansing Task Group members present:

- Councillor Anderson
- Councillor Lady Atkins
- Councillor Brooks
- Councillor R Gandhi
- Councillor Hodgkinson
- Councillor McCann
- Councillor Moon
- Councillor Perkin
- Councillor Walmsley

Apologies:

- Councillor M Gandhi

Other members present:

- Councillor Murphy

Officers present:

- Michael Ryan, Corporate Director of People and Places
- Mark Billington, Head of Operations
- Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer

8. Declarations of Interest

None.

9. Notes of previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 20 July 2011 were agreed as a true record.

10. Analysis of Street Cleansing Enquiries

Cllr Walmsley had carried out an analysis of street cleansing enquiries made through the Contact Centre. He had broken the information down by area and by ward, under nine different category headings. He remarked that Fleetwood came out top in six of the nine categories, but anticipated that significant improvements would result from the introduction of bins in the previous ‘black sack’ areas, and by new working practices that were to be introduced.
Cllr Walmsley estimated that notional savings in the region of £60k would be made if there was a reduction of 50% in the number of calls received from the public (based on £100 per call). Michael Ryan added that the aim was to stop the calls coming into the Contact Centre in the first place by ensuring effective street cleansing. Hotspots would be mapped, ward by ward, so that the service could be tailored to reality.

Cllr Brooks suggested that there would be benefits from drilling down to get more detailed information so that specific locations, days and times of day could be identified. Once that was done, people’s behaviour could be tackled through education and enforcement. Cllr Walmsley agreed to obtain more detailed information from the Contact Centre about the 177 reported incidents in Fleetwood, and to analyse them further.

**RESOLVED:**

(i) That Cllr Walmsley undertake further analysis, as agreed, and advise members of the committee about the outcomes, and

(ii) That Cllr Walmsley be thanked for his informative contribution.

11. **Consultation Responses**

Following an invitation to identify street cleansing ‘hotspots’ and to make comment on the need for street cleansing services in certain locations, a number of responses had been received from ward councillors and from Parish and Town Councils. Comment was made that the number of responses from ward councillors was disappointing.

Members discussed the council’s relationship with the Parish Lengthsmen. It was agreed that the role of the Lengthsman was not to undertake the council’s functions, but to add value and provide a service ‘over and above’. It was important that the council’s relationship with the Lengthsmen was a supportive and complementary one, with effective communication.

Mr Ryan advised the task group that once staff were in place in the new in-house team, the Neighbourhood Supervisor would be tasked with communicating effectively with the Lengthsmen. Mark Billington added that Lengthsmen operated in different ways; for some (e.g. Preesall Town Council) there were private arrangements in place.

In answer to a question, Mr Ryan said that members could be assured that the streets would be clean through a variety of means, including

(i) the Neighbourhood Teams
(ii) supervision within the new staffing structure
(iii) the client officer having responsibility for managing the contract.

Mr Ryan added that by the end of September 2012 it would be possible to assess the progress of the new arrangements as they would have been in place for six months. Members also suggested that Town and Parish Councils should be involved in any review of implementation.
RESOLVED:

(i) That a report reviewing the implementation of the new street cleansing Service be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2012

(ii) That the views of Town and Parish Councils be reflected in the review of implementation in October 2012

12. Consideration of Future Resources

Mr Ryan informed members that twenty two operatives and one supervisor, currently employed by Fylde, would be moved across under TUPE arrangements (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations, 2006) from 1 April 2012. At present it was unclear how many staff would be needed in total. A ward mapping exercise would be undertaken and the minimum frequency of cleaning established. These factors, as well as the fact that the service would be more mechanised, needed to be taken into consideration when assessing resource requirements. It was likely that the staffing structure would be finalised by December.

Mr Billington advised that one option was for the borough to be split into two, with an Area Manager in each, with responsibility for street cleansing and parks and open spaces, supported by Neighbourhood Supervisors and teams. It was likely that all new starters would be on a six-month probationary period.

Training would be provided where necessary, particularly as there would be a requirement for flexible working practices.

Negotiations were underway with Lancashire County Council regarding the identification of local depots for storing equipment on a reciprocal arrangement. Garstang and Knott End had been identified as possible sites, with arrangements well advanced in Garstang.

Members had asked for detailed costings to be provided but these would not be available until decisions had been made about the number of operatives required, details of which would be available in December.

RESOLVED:

(i) That a further meeting of the task group be arranged in December 2011 to consider the proposed staffing structure, costings and the details of new working practices

(ii) That Mr Ryan and Mr Billington be thanked for their report
13. Date and time of next meeting(s)

The meeting that had provisionally been arranged for 29 September was cancelled.

A meeting would be arranged in December to consider
- Staffing structure
- Working practices
- Recommendations

Members would meet after the end of September 2012 (after six months of implementation) to review progress.