

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr David Dixon, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods & Cllr David Bellotti, Cabinet Member for Community Resources		
DECISION DATE:	On or after 9 th July 2011	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:	
		E	2275
TITLE:	Cleansing Equipment Purchase (Phase 2)		
WARD:	All Bath wards		
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM			

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 Following recommendations made by the Council's "Safer & Stronger" Overview & Scrutiny Panel which has considered a report by the Cleanliness Task & Finish Group (and which has also reported to the Bath City Liaison Forum), a proposal has been developed to purchase cleansing equipment to achieve improved levels of cleansing. This proposal has been considered and approved via the Council's capital project review process and this report seeks the necessary budgetary approval.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet members are asked to approve:

- 2.1 The planned investment in new cleansing equipment.
- 2.2 The £220k Capital Budget.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Estimated Capital cost (including 10% contingency) is £220k, as detailed in section 5.4.
- 3.2 This project is part of the Neighbourhoods Services Vehicle & Equipment Asset Management & Replacement Plan, as identified in section 5.3. This is phase 2 of the City Centre Cleansing Equipment Strategy. In phase 1 £170k of equipment was purchased in 2010/11 and is in use. Phase 2 is to complete the required equipment fit-out.
- 3.3 The cost of the City Centre Cleansing Equipment Strategy and the Neighbourhoods Services Vehicle Replacement Programme as a whole is covered in the Neighbourhood Service Revenue Budgets for 2011/12 onwards. An additional £100k Revenue Budget was allocated to help fund the requirements for Bath city centre cleansing. This covers the bulk of the borrowing costs for the equipment purchase, as well as estimated maintenance and running costs for the city centre cleansing equipment. The balance (c.£25k p.a. 2012/13 onwards) is covered by existing Neighbourhood Service Revenue Budgets.

4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The proposed purchase of cleansing equipment will help the Council deliver a number of its priorities:

- Building communities where people feel safe and secure – cleaner streets enhance people's sense of safety and wellbeing
- Improving the public realm – cleanliness is a key factor in people's perception of the quality of public space

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 A Cleanliness Task & Finish Group was established in conjunction with the Bath City Liaison Forum and this reported to the "Safer & Stronger" Overview & Scrutiny Panel in late 2008 on ways of "Working Together to make Bath Britain's Cleanest City". The Group was made up of residents, Councillors and officers and formed 3 sub-groups; one focusing on Cleansing Standards, another on Equipment & Productivity, and a third on Public Awareness & Enforcement. The conclusions of the Task & Finish Group were reported to the Bath City Liaison Forum in June 2009 and to the Council's Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel in July 2009.
- 5.2 The recommendations of the Task & Finish Group have been progressively implemented as time and resources have allowed. It was recognised that the most significant improvements can only be achieved through full implementation of the recommendations of the Equipment & Productivity sub-group. Some early improvements were achieved through careful replacement of existing equipment but significant investment is needed to deliver all of the improvements identified.
- 5.3 In 2010, a major piece of work was undertaken to develop a fully costed vehicle replacement plan for the Neighbourhood Services' fleet of 100 vehicles and items

of specialist equipment. Within the plan, allowance was made for the purchase of additional items of equipment to enable full implementation of the Equipment & Productivity sub-groups recommendations. The vehicle replacement plan received all the corporate approvals required and was included in the Council's budget in February 2011. However, the element of the plan that related to the Task & Finish Group recommendations was singled out for final approval by a Single Member Decision.

- 5.4 Significant research and trialling of suitable equipment has been undertaken by members of the Task & Finish Group and the Cleansing Service. The final agreed list of equipment to be purchased for phase 2 to complete the required equipment is:

1 x Goupil electric powered tipper for bin emptying in the outer city centre areas. This will free street sweepers from having to empty bins and transport full bags on their hand carts. The vehicle will also come with electric powered watering system for hanging basket watering	£23,000
6 x Green Machine 414 pedestrian powered sweepers, 4 for the city centre and 2 for the outer Bath area. These machines will remove the need for hand brushes and carts and enable staff to "walk and work"	£90,000
4 x Eurogreen Glutton electric powered pedestrian vacuums, 2 for the city centre and 2 for the outer Bath area. These machines will enable litter and detritus to be collected in areas inaccessible to the pedestrian powered sweepers enabling staff to "walk and work"	£60,000
Allowance to ensure suitable storage / recharging facilities available and for an efficient handling system for full litter bags	£27,000
Contingency sum	£20,000
Total Estimated Capital Cost	£220,000

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The report author and Cabinet members have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 This proposal will not have any effect on equality for any of the protected characteristics.

8 RATIONALE

- 8.1 The purchase of the new cleansing equipment is recommended as this is the most effective way of further improving standards of cleanliness in Bath.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 The Task & Finish Group explored many options for service improvement and made a number of recommendations. These have been progressively implemented leaving the proposal to invest in additional cleansing equipment as the key outstanding action.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Cabinet member; Staff; Local Residents; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer

10.2 Consultation was carried out during equipment demonstrations and by issue of draft single member decision paper

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Property; Corporate; Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Andy Chard, Neighbourhood Environment Manager, Tel. 396883
Background papers	Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 23 July 2009, Bath City Liaison Forum – Task & Finish Group on Improving Cleansing Standards in Bath
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