

# North Lanarkshire Council Report

## Environment & Transportation Committee

approval  noting

Ref

Date 28/08/19

## Environmental Improvement Taskforce

**From** Head of Environmental Assets

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### Executive Summary

Options, as requested by the Administration, are presented to form an Environmental Improvement Taskforce, to provide a focus on levels of environmental quality to ensure North Lanarkshire is the place to LIVE, LEARN, WORK, INVEST & VISIT.

These options combined with enhanced rationalisation and improvement work on-going within the service to ensure the Council receives efficient and effective delivery of front line environmental services, focused on the needs of communities.

The primary basis of the recommendations below are to provide a consistently and effectively delivered baseline of quality services to communities to enhance the place that is North Lanarkshire, engendering a sense of pride within communities and working jointly to tackle issues of littering, fly-tipping and general environmental quality, enhancing health and wellbeing of citizens and improving the visual amenity and environmental quality of North Lanarkshire to all.

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### Recommendations

To approve the formation of an Environmental Improvement Taskforce, for an initial six month period, to resource the litter picking of verges and Community Deep Cleans.

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### The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities

Ambition statement (17) Ensure we keep our environment clean, safe, and attractive

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Restructuring of the Council's Streetscene Services in 2018 and the development of The Plan for North Lanarkshire have enabled identification of key areas of additional focus within Streetscene, not currently resourced, that will enhance cleanliness and visual impact within and between communities.

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## **2. Report**

### **2.1 Verge Litter & Deep Cleans**

This resource will focus on verge litter collection on B & C class roads between communities that are currently only picked upon request. We maintain @ 4000km of road verges throughout NL.

- 2.2 Formation of this team will work to an output based specification in terms of cleanliness, as opposed to a frequency of clean. This will enable time and resources to be programmed against Community Deep Cleans, focusing on main streets, footpaths etc. in main public thoroughfares to remove the build-up of detritus.
- 2.3 These are high impact works within communities that can assist in engendering community pride, and providing relatively low cost environmental improvement. Following the initial pass these can become regular (cyclical every 3-5 years) within a community.
- 2.4 In terms of resourcing the proposal is for the formation of 3 teams of 4 operatives, based North, Central & South. These squads will be combinable for community focused high impact deep clean works. These will be planned and directed with appropriate supervision and transport, traffic management and hire plant as necessary.
- 2.5 Cost for the establishment of these three teams is £491K per annum. Establishment of teams to demonstrate impact and improve cleanliness of communities and key routes between October 2019 and March 2020 is £245k.
- 2.6 The service will continue to deliver to the best of its ability, adapting and reshaping as necessary to improve efficiency and effectiveness and harnessing new technologies as they emerge.

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## **3. Equality and Diversity**

- 3.1 Fairer Scotland  
The requirement to comply with The Fairer Scotland Duty does not apply in this case.
- 3.2 Equality Impact Assessment  
This additional work will benefit Communities and Citizens equally, and will have no impact on the Councils duties under the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty Regulations.

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## **4. Implications**

- 4.1 Financial Impact

The additional costs have been accommodated within the Council's change management fund for 2019/20, and thereafter, will be addressed through the normal budget process for 2020/21 and future years.

4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact  
No impact

4.3 Environmental Impact  
No impact

4.4 Risk Impact  
No impact

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**5. Measures of success**

5.1 Improved cleanliness levels on rural routes.

5.2 Tackling Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators (AEQI's) in key town centres and communities.

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**6. Supporting documents**

6.1 None.



**Nicole Paterson**  
**Head of Environmental Assets**