

Clean & Green Service – Scrutiny Review 2010 - Information Pack

1. Financial information – Budget Statement

To present the overall budget cost of the Clean & Green service for the current year (2010/11) and the previous two year period.

Appendix A provides a budget statement showing the overall income and expenditure of the service. The net cost is further reduced by a contribution from the Clean & Green reserve (shown at line 56). The final cost is recharged to both Street Cleaning and Parks and Open Spaces budgets.

The Clean & Green Service is the name of the initiative that started in 2006 to bring together existing services such as managing dog and litter bins, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles with the inspection of amenities such as public conveniences, parks and open spaces.

As such the majority of the budget headings already existed prior to 2006. For example, as a principal litter authority the Council has a duty to keep land it is responsible for free from litter and has therefore provided dog and litter bins for this purpose as well as employing street sweeping staff and vehicles.

The advent of the Clean and Green Service has seen more of a dedicated focus upon enforcing legislation in relation to specific waste related crime such as fly tipping. The additional Clean & Green funding has supported the recruitment of a dedicated part time Investigator to lead on the investigation of crimes and prepare cases for prosecution.

If the Council decided not to continue to operate the Clean and Green Service the majority of the current budget expenditure would continue as the Council would have to meet the various duties in relation to keeping land clear of litter and waste.

When looking at the performance and achievements of the Clean and Green Service, the level of reported cases of fly tipping and abandoned vehicles has each reduced significantly from the levels that existed prior to 2006. The impact of the Clean and Green Service when compared to other local authorities who do not appear to adopt such a robust approach can also be seen from the benchmark data. Likewise, other local authorities that have adopted a similar approach to our Clean and Green Service, such as Wealden and Rother, also are now seeing a similar reduction in issues such as fly tipping.

There is a cost associated with not taking such a robust position. Clearing fly tipping costs the Council on average £80 per case to remove and dispose of, substantially more if hazardous waste is involved. By reducing the number of fly tips by 50% has saved the Council an estimated £32,000 per year.

2. Performance Information

Appendix B in the form of a presentation tracks the history of the Clean & Green service from inception in 2006, through to the current date. Officers will give detailed background information around the presentation slides and answer questions relating to service performance.