



Councillor Peter Black
Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee

Please ask for: Councillor Cyril Anderson
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Our Ref: CA/JW
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Date: 18 November 2024

VIA EMAIL

Dear Councillor Black

Scrutiny of Streetscene Improvements – Cleansing Operations

Thank you for your letter following the meeting of the Committee on 15 October 2024 in respect of 'Streetscene Improvements – Cleansing Operations'. I am pleased to note that the Committee recognises the important role that the Cleansing Service plays in keeping our streets clean and clear of litter and refuse so far as is practicable. I also welcome your comments and thanks directed to the Teams for continuing to maintain a high level of service under challenging and often difficult circumstances.

In answer to the additional questions raised, I would make the following comments:

Provide figures on tonnage of litter collected, both overall as a Service and, if possible, for the City Centre;

As explained in scrutiny it is not possible to provide city centre specific figures due to the way the operations function however to provide an indicative figure officers selected a typical weekend, in this case 5th and 6th October 2024 where a total of 7.8 tonnes of waste was collected using 10 vehicles, including those assigned to mini town centre operations. Additionally, the service utilised 3 Mechanical Brush Vehicles (MBVs), each capable of holding up to a tonne. This brings the total waste collected for that weekend to approximately 21.8 tonnes.

In terms of overall waste figures for the Service for 2023/24, we are currently projecting a total collection of over 4,100 tonnes.

Provide figures in relation the proportion of litter collected that we are able to recycle;

During 2023/24 (12-month period) Cleansing recycled a total of 68 tonnes of material. This equates approximately to a £13k saving. Whilst the weight may not sound much compared to the total amount of waste collected, it is of note that a high proportion of the recycled waste is very light (single use plastic drinks bottles etc) so the volume of material/ no. of items collected is significant.



Confirm what it costs the Council to collect litter and consider putting out some communication to make the public aware;

The total Cleansing budget for 2023/24 was £6.4 million. Of this £781K (~12%) was spent on waste disposal (includes fly tipping). Officers will consult with the Communications Team around publicising these figures via social media.

Consider the feasibility of temporary road closures to enable more effective leaf / debris removal, developing collaborative working with highways operations;

Officers from Parks and Cleansing always liaise with officers from Highways for opportunities to conduct collaborative works which includes taking advantage of any road closures. Specific closures for cleansing operations would only be considered where there is a significant issue to resolve as they are extremely disruptive for residents and expensive to the authority.

Comment on the causes of the increase in Fly Tipping, and provide information on Fly Tipping performance, and enforcement activity

We are continuing to advertise the importance of reporting fly tipping in local communities and where possible, continue to take robust enforcement action. Along with the campaign to reduce, reuse and recycle. Active engagement with local communities and members of the public may contribute to an increase in reported cases of flytipping. Flytipping is opportunistic activity and members of the public need to be aware of their responsibilities when arranging for waste to be removed.

The following actions are being taken to improve on our current education, engagement and enforcement campaign (3Es).

- We are working closely with partnership bodies such as South Wales Police, National Resources Wales and Fly tipping Action Wales, social housing bodies and local businesses, to highlight the importance of effective waste disposal and reducing fly tipping.
- We are applying effective deterrents at fly tipping sites by way of limiting access, public information notices and effective and efficient waste removal and investigation.
- We regularly promote via social media and face to face public engagement, the Householder Duty of Care and its requirements, with a view to reducing the opportunity of waste being fly tipped.
- We will continue to increase public awareness of successful enforcement action.
- We will continue our work with other local authorities to discuss cross boundary working and effective enforcement action as well as learning and sharing of best practice.

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I trust this answers the issues raised.

Yours sincerely



Y Cyngorydd Cyril Anderson – Councillor Cyril Anderson
Aelod y Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Cymunedol
Cabinet Member for Community Services