

CLEANING OF PRIVATE STREETS

Environment Select Committee – 25 October 2011

Report of the: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Community and Planning

Status: For Consideration and recommendation to Cabinet

Also considered by: Cabinet - 3 November 2011

Key Decision: Yes

This report supports the Key Aim of effective management of Council Resources.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Mrs Hunter

Head of Service Head of Environmental and Operational Services – Richard Wilson

Recommendation to Environment Select Committee: it be RESOLVED that it be recommended to Cabinet:

- (a) that the residents in the private roads listed in the appendix be advised that, with effect from 1 April 2012, the Council will no longer be able to clean these streets free of charge; and
 - (b) that the Council offer to clean these streets from 1 April 2012, only on a chargeable basis.
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Background

- 1 As part of the 2011/12 and ongoing budget savings, the Street Cleaning Budget has been reduced by £162,000. This has resulted in a reduction of four operatives (one large mechanical street cleaner, one small mechanical street cleaner and two litter pickers) plus one supervisor.
- 2 The cleaning schedules have been revised to account for this reduction in resources and, instead of four small area teams operating, one larger team operates in five zones (Monday to Friday). The majority of the cleaning frequencies have remained but it has been necessary to reduce the frequency of cleaning of residential areas from a thirty day to a forty day cycle
- 3 Prior to 1990, when this service was first exposed to Compulsory Competitive Tendering (CCT), the original specification included the cleaning of several private streets.

- 4 This situation has remained and the private streets that are currently cleaned without charge are listed in the Appendix.
- 5 Other private streets are currently cleaned on request, for which a charge is made at an hourly rate, (£48 - £60 per hour, depending on the number of men/vehicles utilised). These are cleaned on request from the residents.
- 6 Not cleaning the private streets listed would enable the available cleaning resources to be employed maintaining the existing cleaning schedules for the streets we have a statutory duty to clean. If residents requested that we continue to clean these private streets, but a charge was made at the same rate as the private streets currently cleaned for which a charge is made, a small amount of income would be realised.
- 7 The Appendix also provides details of the private roads that are currently cleaned for which a charge is made, and the current amount charged.

Key Implications

Financial

- 8 The current list of private streets cleaned for which a charge is made generates income of approximately £1,500 per year. If the list of streets currently cleaned, free of charge, were cleaned at an hourly rate this level of income would be increased. It is not possible at this stage to estimate how many of the residents of these streets would wish the Council to clean on a chargeable basis.

Community Impact and Outcomes

- 9 A clean Environment is one of the key themes of the Community Plan and is a high priority for residents.

Legal, Human Rights etc.

- 10 Under Section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 there is a duty on a District for a relevant highway, so far as practicable to ensure that it is kept clean. A 'relevant highway' is defined under Section 86(a) of the Act as, every highway maintainable at public expense (other than a trunk road). This duty would not extend to 'private roads' that are not maintained at public expense. A District, under the Control of Pollution Act 1974 Section 22(3), may enter into an agreement with a land owner in respect of cleaning.

Resource (non-financial)

- 11 Not cleaning the private streets listed, on a regular frequency basis, would enable the current cleaning resources to be employed better maintaining the existing schedules for the streets the Council has a statutory duty to clean.

Equality Impacts

- 12 By adopting this recommendation, the cleaning of private streets would be undertaken on an equitable basis across the District.

RISK ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

- 13 By continuing with the existing policy, the resources available for street cleaning can not be fully utilised to maintain cleaning standards for the street cleaning the Council has a statutory duty to provide.

Background Papers:

Street Gazetteer

Index of Street Cleaning Schedules

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Hartley

Manor Drive
Fortuna Close
Hoselands View

Badgers Mount

Badgers Road
Christies Avenue
Woodlands View
Johnson Avenue
Highlands Road
Milton Avenue
Charles Road

Sevenoaks

Kippington Road
Courtwood Road
Clenches Farm Road
Clenches Farm Lane
Oakhill Road
Woodside Road (Private Part)
The Glade
Linden Chase
Pineneedles Lane
Ashplatt Road
Harrison Way

Riverhead

Baden Powel Road
Bessels Meadow
The Floats

Westerham

The Slip

Knockholt

Ivy Lane

Otford

Greenhill Road
Hillydeal Road

Edenbridge

Sheriden Lane (Marsh Green)

Horton Kirby

Stack Lane

Crockenhill

Tudor Court

Hextable

Princes Road

Woodlands Rise, Sevenoaks £48 per hour + VAT (Approximately 2 hours)

Froghole Lane, Crockham Hill I £48 per hour + VAT (Approximately 4 hours)

Packhorse Road, Bessels Green £48 per hour + VAT (Approximately 3 hours)

Combe Bank Road and School, Sundridge £48 per hour + VAT (Approximately 1 hour)

Parkfields, Sevenoaks £60 per hour (Approximately 4 hours)

Oakhill Road (paths), Sevenoaks £60 per hour (Approximately 4.5 hours)