

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Employment of Parish ‘Neighbourhood Street Cleansers’ 2018/19 Budget Variation

3rd January 2018

1. Introduction

Councillors often describe concerns raised from Parishioners on the state of their neighbourhoods. Complaints principally range from uncleaned gullies, litter, dog mess and unemptied bins.

Subsequent reductions in SBC budget has in turn led to the current SBC street operatives working over a much larger geographical area and having to complete a wide range of duties in addition to street cleansing (such as managing the toilets).

Whilst Volunteering and community initiatives have made inroads to the challenges faced on maintaining clean neighbourhoods, there remains a requirement to work alongside volunteers with a more focused investment and resource.

In August 2017, L&A Committee Councillors discussed the operative arrangements of previous years; previously dedicated operatives were given specific geographical areas to focus on; it was their individual responsibility to ensure the neighbourhood(s) they represented were maintained to an agreed standard. The operative’s equipment was stored within the locale itself, such as a community centre, and they had set dedicated routes which varied over a 5 day rota.

It was universally agreed by those L&A Committee Councillors that this method of working harnessed a sense of ownership and responsibility over the local area and helped build a rapport and relationship with local residents.

Three geographical areas were discussed as potential priorities. Penhill, Gorse Hill & Pinehurst and Rodbourne.

2. Report Details

2.1 To avoid overlap of duties, the Parish Council must remain mindful of the SBC commissioned resource which is currently subject to concurrent consultation. The Parish Manager has a copy of the proposed changes to the 2018/19 SBC StreetSmart structure. As the SBC restructure is subject to consultation it cannot be included in this report at this stage. The Parish Manager is in direct communication with SBC through this process to ensure any changes we propose are considered as part of the SBC review.

2.2 Should Parish Councillors decide to employ three Neighbourhood Street Cleansers the additional annual revenue costs are as follows:

3 Additional Staff	£75,000
Running costs for barrows (Oil, fuel and bags)	£ 2,500
Revenue Total:	£77,500

2.3 One off CAPEX costs are as follows:

Option 1: 3 Barrows with Vacuum Head	£6,000	(£18,000)
Option 2: 3 Barrows compatible with vacuum Head	£4,500	(£13,500)

FORD Transit Van L3 H2 £32,000 (Plus Livery cost est. £1,700)

Existing SBC commissioned staff currently work a rota of 06.00 to 14.00. It would be prudent to consider proposing additional Staff are employed to cover later in the day so we would have new staff operating from 10am to 6pm which would give better coverage for cleansing later in the day to maintain cleanliness standards for longer.

The two vehicles would also operate 6am to 2pm and 10am to 6pm shifts in support of operations. .

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Parish Councillors agree to employ three directly employed Parish street cleansers who will work alongside SBC on a set rota within a set geographical area. That the Parish appoint a 'first amongst equals' supervisor to monitor and supervise the staff. The supervisor will report directly to the Parish Manager. Posts should be appointed on a 12 month fixed term contract initially to coincide with April 2019.

-or-

3.2 That the Parish Council agree a variation to the SBC SLA and transfer year one revenue funds and CAPEX costs for three street cleansers to be incorporated and employed by SBC.