

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Report to:- Carlisle City Council

Date of Meeting:- 4th May 2010

Agenda Item No:-

Public

Title:- **PETITION - REQUEST FOR RENSTATEMENT OF A
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL ROAD SWEEPER FOR THE
BOTCHERBY WARD AREA**

Report of:- **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LOCAL ENVIRONMENT)**

Report reference:- **CS14/10**

Summary:-

This report details the street cleaning service provided in the Botcherby area and why changes were made to the service.

Recommendation:-

It is recommended that the Council notes this report.

Contact Officer: Willie McCreadie

Ext: 8509

A Culleton

Assistant Director - Local Environment

20 April 2010

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

Prior to 2000, the street cleaning service was provided on a contract basis using a mixture of mobile teams and street operatives using barrows covering the Carlisle area on a set frequency basis.

In some areas where a constant presence is required such as City Centres and busy shopping areas we provide an enhanced service to cover our responsibilities under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 code of practice on litter and refuse.

Apart from the City Centre and Peripheral areas being covered by barrowmen some of the Council House estates such as Botcherby were covered by a barrowman working to a set route. This service was partly funded by the Councils Housing Department during this time and funding ended a number of years ago. The Council continued to provide this service as it was as long as we could meet the requirements under the code as long as no other problems occurred.

The area in Botcherby covered by a barrowman was the land between Victoria Road junction Warwick Road ending at the bridge on Durrhill Road with all roads, cuts, and grassed areas which are the responsibility of the City Council covered in the service. Riverside Housing Association also owns and maintains land on the estate and the responsibility for the cleansing duties in these areas rests with them.

The shopping area was cleaned on a daily basis and the rest of the streets in the area were cleaned on a weekly basis.

Sadly, from time to time cleansing staff in Carlisle have tolerated abuse and even assaults against them while carrying out their work. Where possible we change work patterns to reduce this problem but unfortunately as barrowmen are lone workers without the ability to remove themselves from potential harm quickly a number of assaults had occurred and in the case of Botcherby the previous barrowman was assaulted three times in 2007 and would no longer work in the area and left his job.

In order to continue providing a safe environment for staff to work the service was changed in accordance to the council's Lone Working Policy. The risk assessment states that staff working in a high risk environment should not work alone. We therefore arranged for a two man mobile team to cover Botcherby and other locations on the East side of Carlisle. The vacant post was advertised and a new staff member was appointed to work as part of the two man team. Due to the risk of assault to staff we could no longer consider providing a lone worker for the estate. These arrangements have continued to date and no further serious incidents have occurred.

There is no statutory requirement to provide barrowmen and in most cases throughout the country, barrowmen have been replaced by mobile teams. Alternative cleansing provision has been provided in the area which achieves comparative levels of cleansing quality.

The area will be monitored for the next 4 weeks until 4th June, to check environmental quality and ensure that the current arrangements are adequate.

2. CONSULTATION

2.1 Consultation to Date.

Health and Safety

2.2 Consultation proposed.

Further consultation will be undertaken post monitoring

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

To continue with the existing cleansing arrangements using the mobile team.

To monitor effectiveness of the mobile team in Botcherby for 4 weeks.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To reduce the risk of future assaults against staff working in the area a mobile team is much safer. If there is an incident or risk of conflict the team can move away from the location quickly avoiding further problems such as assault. Adequate standards of cleansing can be achieved without the use of lone workers in high risk areas.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources –
No change to existing.

- Financial –
No change

- Legal –
As stated above. The Council has an obligation to its staff to make sure the work environment is safe to work in. Lone working in a high risk area places staff at risk.

- Corporate – n/a
- Risk Management –
Reduced risk if incident using a mobile team.
- Equality and Disability – N/A
- Environmental –
The team follows the same routes as the barrowman did.
- Crime and Disorder –
Reduced incidents of antisocial behaviour against staff using the mobile team in the area since 2007. This is a positive impact.
- Impact on Customers –
None envisaged, as a mobile team can cover more work than a barrowman and they can remove fly tipping and empty litter bins when on site. Quality of the service provision will be monitored for 4 weeks to ensure that the expected quality of service is delivered.