

Report to:

Council

Agenda
Item

11(b)(iii)

Meeting Date: 5 March 2013

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Environment & Transport Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Elsie Martlew**

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Clean Up Carlisle

A review of dog fouling in 10 areas has revealed that those areas targeted for enforcement and education as part of the "Clean up Carlisle" campaign had a reduction of between 22% and 72%. Although the dark winter months tend to generate most complaints about dog fouling the reduction in actual dog fouling on the ground proves, not only the success of the campaigning by the City Council, but also communities themselves can improve their local environments. The next review will be in April where it is hoped that the targeted education and enforcement activities and the support of the local communities will reduce the incidents of dog fouling in all of the areas surveyed.

Food Safety

On two further occasions this month the Food Safety Team successfully removed dangerous food from the food chain. The officers found that ready to eat foods had again been packed on machines that had earlier been used to pack raw meat. A number of serious Ecoli food poisoning outbreaks have been linked to these types of packing machines. Between 1st April 2012 and the 31st December 2012 the Environmental Health Service received 184 confirmed cases of infectious diseases which include food poisonings. Separating raw meats from ready to eat foods is a significant measure in preventing food poisoning.

Public Burials

Due to its public health role the City Council has responsibilities for the burial of persons where no suitable arrangements appear to have been made. These are sometimes misleadingly known as pauper burials. It is usual for the Council to receive around 3 or 4 of these a year but between April 2012 and January 2013 there have been 9 incidents that

have required investigations. Trying to identify families and finances, and where necessary arranging the funerals, can be time consuming. The City Council would advise that people living alone to take steps to ensure their wishes upon death are followed, this would include writing a will, keeping a list of family and friends and putting this information in a place where it can be easily found. We would also recommend that neighbours and friends keep in contact with the elderly or vulnerable who are living alone.

HIGHWAYS

Claimed Rights

In anticipation of the termination of Claimed Rights, City and County Officers are meeting regularly to identify what needs to be done and ensure a smooth transition of this service at the end of March. Much work still remains to be done.

Lighting Improvements

A programme of lighting improvement is to commence in early February. Highway lighting on Holmrook Road, Queensway and Crosshill Drive is to be replaced with now white lights. This work is funded by the County Council. Footway Lighting improvements are also to take place on Melbourne Park.

Footway Improvements

A programme of footway improvements is underway on a number of streets around the City. Work commenced in October on Fusehill Street and work will be taking place on Stand Road, Lismore Place, Greystone Road, Portland Place, Whinsmoor Drive, finishing on Edgehill Road. This work is funded by the County Council.

GREEN SPACES

Winter maintenance of all parks and green spaces is on schedule. The availability of football pitches has been affected by poor weather (pitches are alternatively waterlogged or frozen) and we will be working with local clubs on a strategic approach to managing our pitches to improve their 'playability'.

Allotment self-management progressing satisfactorily and the first tranche of sites will be self-managed from 1 April 2013

BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

The new office accommodation is complete but not yet commissioned as the BT cabling has not yet been installed. This is expected to be complete by mid- February

Cremators will require re-lining as soon as possible and therefore will be out of commission for a short time. A new cemetery will be required within the next 10 years and a space will be allocated in the next Local Plan draft.

WASTE SERVICES

Streets

The mechanical sweeper rounds have now been synchronised to follow the refuse rounds. This is having a positive impact in dealing with spills and litter created from the collection process.

The new litter bins are having a positive impact on the environment within the City Centre, the new ashtrays that are located in the top of the bins are being used, and this is helping to reduce the number of butts that are thrown on the floor.

Christmas working was a success and the City's standards for cleanliness were maintained throughout the festive season.

We are now focusing on back lining the urban footpaths; this will help the new mechanical sweepers maintain a clean back line, and should help reduce the summer weed growth.

Waste

Despite incorrect information being published on the Council's web site regarding Christmas and New Year collections, the crews performed a fantastic job catching up. The crews reported a higher than normally expected recycling of card. This could be attributed to the increase of on line shopping.

The weather is creating operational difficulties, with significant snowfall in Gilsland and Kershope Foot. This has resulted in the suspension of the garden waste service to help focus on residual waste and plastic and card recycling. If further snowfall is predicted, this may create further disruption in service delivery.