

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS)

INQUIRY INTO STREET CLEANING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The government's 'cleaner, safer, greener communities' agenda focuses on improving the local environment, making places safer and engaging and empowering communities to adopt sustainable lifestyles. Since 2002 the government has introduced new funding approaches and legislative powers, such as the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, to enable councils to act. The Local Government White Paper also highlights the need to empower and engage communities in creating better public places.
- 1.2 The physical appearance and quality of local environments have a high impact on the quality of life and the feeling of safety within communities and this is recognised with the Council's Corporate Plan 2005/08 and Council Plan 2007/08. One of the Council's five strategic service outcomes for local people is that 'All neighbourhoods are safe, clean, green and well maintained'. One of the planned activities set out within the Corporate Plan states that the Council will work towards becoming the cleanest city in Europe by 2020 by further developing its approach to improving streets. It will do this by providing city-wide integrated Streetscene services, supported by effective education, and it will not tolerate any environmental crime.
- 1.3 During its meeting on 24th July 2008, Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) resolved to undertake an inquiry focusing primarily on the role of street cleaning services in helping to meet the Council's strategic service outcome.

2.0 Scope of the inquiry

- 2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
 - Legislation governing street cleaning services, including the National Code of Practice on refuse and street litter;
 - Roles and responsibilities of the Council for street cleaning services in Leeds (including the role of the ALMOs);
 - Common perceptions around street cleaning services and the measures of success used;
 - Methods of community engagement to reflect local priorities;
 - Comparative case studies of successful beacon authorities in relation to the 'better public places' theme;

- Street cleaning enforcement powers of the Council and opportunities for joined up enforcement with other individuals/groups/organisations (particular reference will be made to the enforcement of dog fouling);
- Frequency and monitoring of street cleaning services;
- Resource pressures relating to street cleaning services.

3.0 Comments of the relevant Director and Executive Member

- 3.1 In line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 12.4 the views of the relevant Director and Executive Member have been sought and have been incorporated where appropriate into these Terms of Reference. Full details are available on request to the Scrutiny Support Unit.

4.0 Timetable for the inquiry

- 4.1 The Inquiry will take place over a number of sessions. These sessions will involve working group meetings which will provide flexibility for the Board to gather and consider evidence that will aid the discussions during the public Board meetings.
- 4.2 The length of the Inquiry is subject to change.

5.0 Submission of evidence

- 5.1 Working group meetings will be held during the interim period between session one and two. Dates for the working group meetings are to be arranged.

5.2 Session one – Scrutiny Board Meeting (13th October 2008)

To consider evidence in relation to the following areas:

- Legislation governing street cleaning services, including the National Code of Practice;
- Roles and responsibilities of the Council for street cleaning services in Leeds (including the role of the ALMOs);
- Common perceptions around street cleaning services and the measures of success used.

5.3 Session two – Scrutiny Board Meeting (8th December 2008)

To consider evidence in relation to the following areas:

- Methods of community engagement to reflect local priorities;
- Comparative case studies of successful beacon authorities in relation to the 'better public places' theme;

- Street cleaning enforcement powers of the Council and opportunities for joined up enforcement with other individuals/groups/organisations (particular reference will be made to the enforcement of dog fouling);
- Frequency and monitoring of street cleaning services;
- Resource pressures relating to street cleaning services.

5.4 **Session three – Scrutiny Board Meeting (16th March 2009)**

- To agree final report

6.0 Witnesses

6.1 The following witnesses have been identified as possible contributors to the Inquiry:

- Chief Environmental Services Officer, Leeds City Council
- Head of Environmental Services, Leeds City Council
- Leeds ALMO Managers
- Executive Member for Environmental Services
- Chief Officer in Community Safety, West Yorkshire Police
- ENCAMS representative
- Cleaner, Greener Network Group
- Area Committee Managers and Chairs

7.0 Post inquiry report monitoring arrangements

7.1 Following the completion of the Scrutiny inquiry and the publication of the final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored.

7.2 The final inquiry report will include information on the detailed arrangements for how the implementation of recommendations will be monitored.

8.0 Measures of success

8.1 It is important to consider how the Scrutiny Board will deem if their inquiry has been successful in making a difference to local people. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.