



# City Services

## environmental and highways services

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### Main responsibilities:

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

##### Streetscene Services

City Services has a vital role to play in the achievement of the corporate priority, 'All Neighbourhoods are Safe, Clean, Green and Well Maintained'. The creation of integrated Streetscene services is critical to the achievement of government targets and corporate priorities to improve the cleanliness of the street environment. Services include:

- Collection of refuse each week from all domestic properties across the Leeds metropolitan area (321,546 properties)
- Collection of bulky household items on a four weekly cycle
- Collection of dry, recyclable material from 250,000 domestic properties
- Collection of medical waste from domestic and commercial premises across the Leeds metropolitan area
- Provision of street sweeping services, both manual and mechanical, to 11,500 roads
- Emptying 250,000 gullies city wide
- Prevention and removal of fly tipping, fly posting, needles and graffiti
- Management of public conveniences

In 2005/06, a task group was formed in order for Leeds to become the cleanest city in Britain by 2009. The group includes officers from a range of council departments and other stakeholders and partners such as ENCAMS, CABE and the voluntary sector. An officer has been seconded to the council from ENCAMS to support the production of district local environmental quality surveys (DLEQS) and to deliver the clean city agenda.

##### Recycling and Waste

The department's commitment to developing alternative ways of dealing with waste generated in Leeds will be critical to meeting ambitious government targets for increasing recycling and reducing the amount of waste going to landfill.

The division provides a recycling and waste disposal service and receives household and municipal waste from the public and from council departments. The division operates a waste transfer loading station and 11 household waste sorting sites and manages 10 closed landfill sites at which it monitors emissions of leachate and methane. The division also manages over 340 drop-off sites across Leeds where materials such as paper, cans and glass can be deposited for recycling.

#### HIGHWAYS SERVICES

**Highways Maintenance** currently maintain 2,900km of highways and adjacent footway in Leeds, providing a 24 hours a day, 365 days a year emergency response service. Winter maintenance services include precautionary salting on main and key distributory roads, and removal of snow as required.

The Leeds street lighting Private Finance Initiative will deliver the largest refurbishment and maintenance programme for street lighting ever seen in this country. The initiative includes the introduction of environmental white lighting, which delivers more light to the street but reduces sky pollution. The scheme will see 80,000 lighting columns replaced over the next five years.



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**Highways Planning** is responsible for monitoring and assessing the condition of the network and for prioritising works accordingly. This section also monitors and controls the activities of utility companies working on the highways.

**Traffic Management** are responsible for the implementation of traffic regulation orders, and the delivery of local traffic schemes, such as traffic calming initiatives. The section also provides information on the guidance and criteria for pedestrian crossings and requests for new crossings.

### **Budget highlights 2007/08:**

Within the Refuse Collection service provision (£129k) has been made for additional staffing resources required to reflect the impact on service delivery of those areas of the City experiencing increased volumes of waste. In addition £100k has been provided to support workforce development within Streetscene Services.

The 2007/2008 budget reflects the appropriate accounting treatment for the Street Lighting PFI. The surplus (after the payment of Unitary Charge) of Revenue Support Grant and Street Lighting revenue budget saving, and the required contribution to the Sinking Fund, is transferred to an earmarked reserve (£4,030k).

The extension of the current pilot scheme for advertising on streetlighting columns is forecast to generate additional income of £52k in 2007/2008.

The additional capital fee income (£526k) reflects increases in the Highways capital programme.

Within the Refuse Collection service resources have been provided for the full year effect of a kerbside garden collection pilot that is being implemented in five areas across the City (£121k). A further £150k has been provided to support an enhanced programme of public education and awareness across the City in relation to waste recycling and minimisation. Both of these developments will contribute towards further improving the Council's recycling rates in line with the Council's Waste Strategy.

The Street Cleansing service has been enhanced (£29k) to incorporate the cleaning of guided bus lanes.

A sum of £350k has been provided to support the implementation of the Authority's Waste Strategy and for progressing the procurement of the Authority's chosen final Waste Solution.

The £291k increase in disposal costs for wood reflects the impact of a new contract which allows for a wider range of different wood types collected at Household Waste and Sorting Sites to be recycled than previously had been possible under the previous contract. This will contribute towards increasing the Authority's recycling rates.

Additional resources (£86k) are required within Horticultural Maintenance to fund payments to the contractor for grass cutting on land that was not originally identified when the contract was tendered, and for works associated with Britain in Bloom.

Additional staffing resources (£50k) are required to support the requirement for the Authority to produce a Highways Asset Management plan.

A reduction in the required contribution to the Insurance Provision in respect of Third party liability claims for accidents on the public highways will fund £4.2m of prudential borrowing. This will be used to support additional works to address Highways Backlog Maintenance.

Additional NRF/SSCF grant is being spent on improvements to the local environment. Of this £800k is being used to resource the Intensive Neighbourhood Management programme in each area of the City and £300k is being spent working with partners to deliver both physical improvements to areas as well as a programme of education.