

Services Level Agreement- 2012/13 Delegation of Environmental Services

1 Parties

- 1.1 This Service Level Agreement is made between the **Outer North East Area Committee** and the **East North East Environmental Locality Team**.

2 Period of the agreement

- 2.1 This Service Level Agreement will take effect from 4th July 2012, until after the first Area Committee meeting in the municipal year 2013, or an earlier date as agreed by both parties.

3 Purpose of the agreement

- 3.1 To set out the outcomes expected of the environmental Locality Team within the Area Committee's area and how success will be measured.
- 3.2 To set out the standards of delivery expected for those services that fall within the scope of the environmental delegation to Area Committees.
- 3.3 To promote greater accountability in the provision of environmental services. To enable elected Members to be more involved in decisions concerning the prioritisation and level of service delivered within the scope of the delegation.
- 3.4 To provide more flexibility in how the services are delivered so as to include specific service requirements to tackle local issues and plan/respond to local events and seasonal issues.

4 Scope of services covered by the agreement

- 4.1 In delegating a range of environmental services to the Area Committee, Leeds City Council's Executive Board has taken account of the ability of services to be effectively delivered, and directed at a local level. The following are those services that are covered by 'the delegation':

- **Street cleansing -**
 - Manual litter picking
 - Litter bin emptying
 - Mechanical path & road sweeping

- Leaf clearing
- Flytipping removal
- Gully Cleansing
- **Regulatory environmental services -**
 - Flytipping enforcement
 - Graffiti enforcement
 - Dog controls (e.g. strays, fouling) – note: dangerous dogs is not to be included in this SLA until agreement is reached with the Area Committee on how that responsibility is to be carried out
 - Highways enforcement (e.g. illegal advertising/trading from the highway)
 - Domestic & commercial waste storage & transportation control
 - Overhanging vegetation control
 - Litter control (FPNs, flier controls etc)

4.2 The core services will continue to be delivered on an agreed citywide operational basis of:

- (a) Street Cleansing - deliver a 7 days a week service across the city. Staff work 10 hours shifts per day based on a 4 by 3 shift pattern over a fortnight. Operations commence between 6am and 8am.
- (b) Regulatory Environmental Services - operate on a Monday to Friday, normal working hours basis. Weekend and evening working is possible by prior arrangement, but usually at additional expense.
- (c) Meeting legal/statutory obligations and corporate policies; for example health and safety policies

4.3 The staffing structure of the East North East Locality Team is provided in appendix C. The budget currently available to the Locality Manager to deliver service commitments made in the SLAs for the three Area Committees in ENE area is provided in appendix B.

4.4 Local variations to the above basis for the delivery of the service can be negotiated as part of the SLA as an agreed additional, bespoke service, paid for from Wellbeing budget for example.

5 Roles & responsibilities

5.1 The specific responsibilities of parties involved in the delivery, management and oversight of the SLA are set out below:

Elected Members

- (a) Area Committee: responsibility delegated from Executive Board to develop and agree the SLA each year and to monitor the delivery of the service against the agreed specifications and outcomes. To negotiate changes to the SLA to address unforeseen issues/events and address service failure/inefficiencies.

(b) Area Committee Chair: To liaise with the Locality Manager to ensure that decisions on service delivery are being made in accordance with the SLA and that timely and accurate reports/information are provided for Area Committee and relevant sub/ward meetings in order for the Area Committee to meet its responsibilities. To work in partnership with other Chairs across the relevant 'wedge' and the city as a whole as required (for example at the Area Chairs' meeting).

(c) Environment Champion: To work collectively with the other Environmental Champions and the Executive Board Member to help change attitudes and behaviours across the city that will improve the environment at a local level. To increase the understanding of the barriers and issues faced at locality level to improving local environmental quality and promote the delivery of solutions through partnership working.

(d) Environment Sub-group: To receive quarterly reports on the delegated services and closely monitor the performance and outcomes of the SLA. To consider in-year variations to the SLA, where necessary making recommendations to the Area Committee for the Locality Manager to implement. To undertake an annual review of the SLA and the development of a new SLA for 2013/14. To monitor and make recommendations on equality, diversity, community cohesion and community safety matters in relation to the delegation of environmental services.

Environmental Locality Manager

- To deliver services under the delegation in line with the preferences and guidance set out by Members within this SLA;
- To maintain records of service activity as necessary to monitor performance against the SLA outcomes;
- To report on progress embedding the service principles set out in the Agreement in how the service is being delivered;
- To report on service activity against the requirements of this SLA, in line with the review and performance monitoring framework;
- To establish and maintain productive relationship with Members to achieve the best outcomes from the available resources;
- To lead the SLA's annual review process, including the development of a new agreement for the following municipal year;
- To work in partnership with other organisations/agencies delivering environmental services, e.g. ALMOs, Parks & Countryside, Town and Parish Councils, to ensure a holistic approach to environmental cleansing and regulation regardless of land ownership; and
- To work with the Area Leader to ensure the SLA is contributing towards wider priorities set out in the Area Committee's Delivery/Business Plan and adding value to other activities/priorities where possible.

6 Service principles and priorities

6.1 Under the terms of the agreement the Locality Manager will ensure that the following principles will be applied and priorities addressed in how the Locality Team plans and delivers its services across the Outer North East area:

(a) **Outcome focused:**

The ENE Locality Team will focus on delivering the best outcome for residents across the Outer North NE area - so that the streets and neighbourhoods in which they live are of an acceptably clean standard. It is this equality of standard that every resident will be entitled to, not necessarily the same quantity of service. For example, not everyone will get their street swept every x weeks, but everyone will be entitled to get their street swept as and when needed if it is the best solution to making sure it doesn't fall to an unacceptable standard of cleanliness.

(b) **Responsive to local needs:**

The service will be more responsive to local needs. There will be greater capacity built in to react to current hotspots, plan for known local events that may affect the cleanliness of neighbourhoods and go where the problem is at that time. We will respond to all requests for new litter bins or relocating existing ones to more effective locations, if the requests can not be met we will explain why.

(c) **Common sense approach:**

The service will have a common sense approach which supports getting the job done. No cleaning of clean streets, more flexible routes/coverage, no driving/walking past problems.

(d) **Working as a team in our priority neighbourhoods:**

The service will work as part of the "team neighbourhood" approach and contribute towards tackling problems identified in the agreed priority neighbourhood of Moor Allerton (inc Lingfields and Fir Trees). We will provide a lead at tasking meetings on environmental crime/ASB issues and make sure coordinated action is being taken against the local priority.

(e) **Supporting community action:**

We will work better with Parish and Town Councils and other community based organisations that: add value to what we do, provide eyes and ears in villages/communities, contribute towards making our streets and neighbourhood cleaner and have a role to play in making our service more accountable.

(f) **Education and Enforcement:**

We will develop and implement local strategies which effectively combine education and enforcement approaches to tackling long standing problems. For example; we will develop a better relationship with schools to work together to prevent litter on school routes, and, have a clearer policy around the cleaning of shop frontages that works in partnership with local businesses to make local shopping centres/main streets clean and pleasant places to visit; for example Wetherby and Collingham main streets.

(g) **Working with ENE and Aire Valley Homes to deliver more effectively:**

We will work in partnership with ENE and Aire Valley Homes to make more effective and efficient use of our combined resource; focusing initially on joint approaches to cleaning open land/spaces and developing a maintenance programme for ginnels.

(h) Planning for seasonal and annual events:

We will ensure that there is sufficient capacity and flexibility in the service to programme in work to deal with leaf fall in autumn and help clean up after significant community events planned during the year.

7 Service activity

7.1 The Environmental Locality Team, through this SLA, undertakes to provide the following service provision to the Outer North East wards of Alwoodley, Harewood and Wetherby as determined by the Committee and statutory obligations placed upon the Council. Activity type is split between programmed and reactive service provision, with activity detailed separately below for each service.

7.2 Street Cleansing Functions

(a) Mechanical Path & Road Sweeping

Sweeping is largely undertaken by pre-determined routes (blocks) which are scheduled to be completed on a cycle set on a weekly, 3 weekly, 6 weekly or 12 weekly basis.

Each block represents approximately 20km of road/paths (ie 10km x 2 sides of the road) and is now split into 2 halves – and sweeping alternates between the two halves each time the block is scheduled to be cleaned. Those streets/roads that have been identified as requiring a sweep/clean at every visit are indicated on the route maps. The service will work with ward members to review the new routes/blocks and agree where changes to which streets are done on which cycle/or on both can be made.

A mechanical path sweeper can complete one route per working day, whilst a road sweeper can complete two routes per day. Routes are scheduled to be completed for both path and road sweeping on the same day and frequency, therefore on the same day two path sweepers will complete the same two routes that one road sweeper completes.

Detailed schedules and maps of the routes of the mechanical sweeping function are available from the team and can be amended through agreement at ward member meetings providing there is no affect on neighbouring wards or extra resource requirement.

Work cycles are based on an 8-day “week”. This enables an extra day of “spare” capacity to be programmed in, which allows the service to recover days lost for planned and unplanned leave. Any remaining capacity will be used to respond to local problems, support community clean ups, tackle seasonal issues and take part in joint-operations agreed through tasking meetings.

(b) *Manual Litter Picking*

Manual litter picking is undertaken on pre-set routes which are scheduled to be completed over a 7 day period, with each route completed by a team of two streetscene attendants who alternate duty through the 4 by 3 shift pattern. Daily coverage per attendant is expected to be approximately 11km.

The routes and frequencies covered by the Outer NE SLA are available from the team.

Where possible, variations to the routes will be negotiated at ward member meetings. This will be limited to instances where the total daily distance covered is not increased.

There is no direct capacity built into this element of the service to cover for sickness and annual leave although call can be made on the limited cover budget.

(c) *Litter Bins*

Litter bins will be emptied and the immediate vicinity checked for cleanliness by one of the two crews on duty in the ENE Locality Team. The SLA is for all bins to be emptied without any overflowing and the frequencies of visits to bins will be adjusted to ensure this commitment is met.

However, where a litter bin is full, for example because of a local event/exceptional busy period, the service will empty the bin within 24hours of it being reported.

(d) *Flytipping*

The team will aim to respond to reported instances of flytipping on public land within 24 hours. This will usually involve an initial visit by enforcement staff to assess whether sufficient evidence can be gathered to enable a legal notice to be issued or fine/prosecution to be made. If the flytip is then clear to be removed by LCC then our flytip crew will do this as soon as possible, usually within 48 hours.

(e) *Gully cleansing*

New to the 2012/13 SLA is the addition of the management of the gully cleansing operations for ENE. There are approx 44,000 gullies to clean across the 9 wards in ENE. The one vehicle allocated to ENE will operate on a 7 day/wk shift pattern. It will spend about a month in each ward throughout the year, working 6 days in that ward and using the other day to respond to referrals from other parts of the locality. In periods of heavy rain etc, the crew may be stood down from ward based programmed work to concentrate on referrals only. The team will respond as quickly as they can to ward member referrals of blocked drains/gullies.

(f) *Arterial Routes*

Separate to the above service commitments/approaches, the Locality Team will ensure that the following sites of concern identified by ward members are kept to an acceptable level of cleanliness:

- Wetherby Road – Between Collingham and Wetherby x 4 layby's
- Hudson Rd – Privas Way grass verges and laybys
- Boston Rd – Whattle Syke layby
- A168 from the main roundabout up to the Deighton Road/B1224 roundabout
- stretch of A168 from Whattle Syke roundabout up towards Wetherby
- Ring Road area around Moor Allerton Shopping Centre
- Guided bus lanes on King Lane

7.3 Environmental Enforcement and Regulation

The enforcement element of the service operate on a Monday – Friday basis, although weekends and evening working is possible by prior arrangement, but usually at additional expense.

Historically, the majority of work undertaken by the regulatory team involves responding to requests for service made by members of the public, via the Council's contact centre, or ward Members. Responding to these issues in this manner takes up approximately 80% of the time available within the team.

This mainly responsive approach has not encouraged behavioural change in those neighbourhoods which resource is inevitably sucked into. The Locality Team plans to develop localised strategies to intervene in the worst neighbourhoods and encourage a change of behaviour towards littering and disposal of waste etc. Initially this will be through more tough and targeted enforcement, but to be complemented by educational work where appropriate. Longer term benefits of this approach should include a reduction in resources required in these neighbourhoods.

For 2012/13 the work of this element of the team will be split into two parts – those focusing on agreed improvement zones in the Area Committees' priority neighbourhoods, and the rest responding to issues throughout the remainder of the ENE locality.

The Environmental Improvement Zones (EIZs) to be tackled in 2012/13 in Outer North East area will be within the Moor Allerton priority neighbourhood where agreed necessary with local ward members.

At a ward level, local tasking arrangements will be used by the service to lead discussion and ensure the securing of partner resources in problem solving and addressing the priority "grime" issues through joint enforcement.

New to the SLA for 2012/13 is the management of dog warden resource in the locality team. This small resource (1.5 staff), will be used to problem solve and utilise the intelligence/resource of other locality team staff and partner organisations to tackle hotspot streets/open spaces/parks where dog fouling, nuisance and flouting of dog control orders is worst. They will also continue to respond to reports of stray dogs.

7.4 Responding to urgent issues

Urgent, unforeseen issues within the Area Committee area, wedge or elsewhere in the City may arise which require a service response outside of the capacity of the locality team. In such an event, resources may have to be temporarily diverted from scheduled work. If this occurs the Environmental Locality Manager will inform the Committee Chair and Environment Champion as soon as possible. The scale and impact of the diversion of resources will be fully detailed within subsequent performance reports to Area Committee.

8 Service outcomes

8.1 Local Authority performance on local environmental cleanliness has in the past been measured at a city-wide level using the National Indicator 195 (NI 195). Whilst this indicator is no longer in use nationally, it is proposed to continue its use locally, but to amend the methodology to measure cleanliness at an Area Committee level. The indicator measures the number of sites surveyed to be satisfactory in terms of the presence of:

- (i) litter
- (ii) detritus (eg leaf mould, dirt accumulations etc).
- (iii) graffiti
- (iv) flyposting.

8.2 In order to set an achievable service improvement target, the Area Committee baseline performance on NI195 will be compared against the citywide average and a % improvement allocated based on variance from the city average.

8.3 In addition, the effectiveness of the interventions and actions carried out in the new EIZs will be measured by six monthly resident satisfaction/perception surveys in the agreed zones. Where appropriate these will be reported through the sub group to the relevant Area Committee and also through the meeting of ENE Area Committee Chairs so that the effective use of resource across the whole locality can be judged.

9 Community Engagement

9.1 The ENE Locality Team will engage with the community via existing mechanisms set out in the Area Committee's own Community Engagement Strategy/Plans. Specifically we will commit to attend the Town and Parish Council Forum meeting as required and agreed through the Chair. We will work with the Area Leadership team to avoid duplication and make the best use of any time spent consulting.

9.2 The Team will work with Elected Members and the Area Committee's Localism Officer to identify other local opportunities for engagement specifically around local environmental priorities, particularly with residents involved in helping improve the condition of neighbourhoods through In Bloom, Friends of and other such groups.

10 Resource and Accountability

- 10.1 The Locality Team budget is not delegated to area committee level, it is a locality wide resource that is the responsibility of the Locality Manager to use as efficiently and as effectively as possible to meet the commitments made in the SLAs and achieve the best possible outcome of clean streets and neighbourhoods across ENE.
- 10.2 The SLA provides an accountable, negotiable mechanism for Area Committees to influence how that resource is best deployed and to judge how effective it is.
- 10.3 The Environmental Locality Manager will be accountable to the Area Committee for the delivery of services as laid out in the SLA.
- 10.4 The Area Committee will be accountable to Executive Board for the achievement of service outcomes and the local execution of Executive Board policies on environmental quality.
- 10.5 As concurrent delegated authority exists with the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods and Chief Environmental Services Officer, these positions will remain accountable to the Executive Board for the effective and efficient delivery of environmental services and related decisions.
- 10.6 Ultimately, however as an Executive Function, the Executive Board of Leeds City Council will remain accountable for delivery of environmental services to the residents of Leeds.

11 Reporting & performance monitoring

11.1 Ward Member Meetings

The Locality Manager or senior representative will attend all ward member meetings as required. Updates will be provided on local ward priority issues and actions of significance that the service has undertaken in that ward so that members are aware of what has been done (e.g. a significant enforcement action/result). Ward members will be made aware when the changes to service delivery schedules has been necessary, provided with the reason why and where relevant when the catch up work will be done. This will also provide opportunity for ward members to engage with the service on its future development.

11.2 Environment Sub-group

Quarterly service activity reports will be submitted by the Environmental Locality Manager to the Environment Sub-group, or equivalent, for consideration. Through the sub-group, the report will be used to identify changes in issues and priorities, and therefore help guide service delivery over the following quarter(s).

11.3 Area Committee

Twice yearly performance monitoring reports will be submitted by the Environmental Locality Manager to the Area Committee for consideration. The report will detail the performance against service outcomes and the execution of Executive Board policy locally.

- 11.4 Harewood and Wetherby Town and Parish Council Forum
The Locality Manager (or Deputy where necessary) will attend the quarterly meeting of the forum to report progress, consult and take issues away from.
- 11.5 Executive Board
An annual report will be submitted by the Area Committee to Executive Board, detailing the performance against service outcomes and the execution of Executive Board policy locally.

12 Review process

- 12.1 The Agreement will be reviewed on an annual basis, to inform the production and approval of subsequent Agreements. The review will be undertaken in line with the corporate budget cycle and review process, to ensure that consideration is given to changes in budget allocation and corporate priorities.
- 12.2 The review process will be undertaken jointly with officers of the service and all, or nominated Members from the Area Committee.
- 12.3 The review process will commence in the October to December 2012 quarter and completed in the January to March 2013 quarter. Proposed updates to the service principles and priorities will be presented at the last Area Committee meeting of the municipal year (March/April) so that a full, revised SLA for 2013/14 can then be worked up to also incorporate any service activity changes required. Also provided will be the second service monitoring report outlining performance against the current year's agreement.
- 12.4 The new SLA for the 2013/14 municipal year will be formally approved by the Area Committee at its first meeting of that municipal year (June/July 2013).
- 12.5 Simple "in-year" changes to how an element of the service is organised and delivered in wards can be agreed outside of any formal review process of the Agreement between ward members and the Locality Manager. Providing the change can be met from within existing capacity in that ward. For example, the additional/amendments of litter bins locations, minor revisions to mechanical and manual sweeping routes/frequencies and agreeing localised enforcement priorities.
- 12.6 Where requested ward changes would have an impact on the service capacity across the Area Committee, the Environmental sub group would consider the matter and if necessary refer to the Area Committee for a decision.
- 12.7 Where requested changes to service delivery within an Area Committee would have an impact on capacity across the Locality, initial discussions would be held between Area Committee Chairs to agree the best way forward. If agreement can not be reached the current SLA arrangement would stand.
- 12.6 Both parties can request re-negotiation of the contents of the agreement in the event of changes to local need or preferences, service demand or citywide

policy in respect of environmental cleanliness/services. Any requests will need to be formalised through either an Area Committee meeting or the Environment Sub-group, whichever is deemed most appropriate. Should urgent changes to service delivery be required, then under the Council's scheme of delegated authority, the Environmental Locality Manager will have the power to approve and implement such changes.

13 Resolving Disagreements

- 13.1 The Area Committee Procedure Rules in the Council's constitution set out the ultimate procedure to follow in the event of a fundamental disagreement between the Area Committee, and the service.
- 13.2 In general, it is expected that all parties will try to resolve a dispute locally in the first instance. If necessary this would involve the Area Leader, particularly where it is felt the dispute/potential solution necessitated influence elsewhere in the Council.
- 13.3 Where a mutually acceptable resolution cannot be reached, the matter will be referred to the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods and/or the Executive Member for Environmental Services. Both have the right to refer the matter to the Executive Board for consideration. In instances where the dispute has an impact on service delivery, the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods shall have the right to implement a temporary solution, pending Executive Board consideration of the disputed issue.
- 13.4 Where disagreements arise over decisions made by the Area Committee or the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods, then the Area Committee Procedure Rules of the Constitution will be followed.

14 Confidentiality & Legal Requirements

- 14.1 Where information is supplied by either party that is deemed of a confidential nature, all individuals acting on behalf of the parties will treat the information as confidential and not disclose it to any groups or individuals outside of the Agreement.
- 14.2 The legal requirements placed upon the Council through various pieces of legislation such as the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989. It is the duty of the Environmental Locality Manager to ensure that the Area Committee fully understands any impact that their priorities or service direction may have on the ability to meet these legal requirements.

Signed:..... Date:

Signed:..... Date: