**Street Cleansing - Review of Current Service and Recommendations**

 **for Future Provision**

**Brief for Specialist Support**

**1. Background**

The Unitary Authority of West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) was formed on the 1st of April 2021, from the former District Councils of South Northamptonshire and Daventry, Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council.

The council’s waste management team is responsible for keeping relevant land, including the public highway for which we are responsible, clear of litter and refuse in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act of 1990, and the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, 1991, modified in 2019.

Currently these duties are discharged by three separate teams, each working in the legacy waste collection authority areas of West Northamptonshire (WN). In the former Northampton Borough council area, the work is contracted out as a part of the Environmental Services contract with Veolia. In the former Daventry District area, street cleansing is carried out through a Joint Venture with West Northamptonshire Norse. In the former South Northamptonshire area, an in-house team of staff carry out this work.

The contract with Veolia and Northampton and the Joint Venture in the Daventry areas both come to an end at the end of May 2028. New arrangements for the provision of street cleansing services will be harmonised across the whole of WN, from June 2028 onwards, both in terms of the method of service delivery and the standard of cleansing which members of the public can expect.

West Northamptonshire is very diverse in its geography and in terms of population demographics. The west and south of WN is mainly rural villages and hamlets with the small towns of Brackley and Towcester and the larger town of Daventry. The county town of Northampton is a predominantly urban area, with areas of terraced properties as well as more suburban housing estates. West Northamptonshire is very well connected with transport routes with the M1 running through the west of the area (motorway cleansing is not our responsibility), National Highways trunk routes of the A5, A14, A45 and A43 and other major and minor roads under the jurisdiction of West Northamptonshire Highways team. This rural and urban mix makes providing a standardised street cleansing service difficult to achieve and in fact, might not be the best approach.

We are aware that, for a variety of reasons, cleansing standards currently differ widely across WN, and this is something that we want to rectify in the new arrangements from 2028. We also acknowledge that on occasions the street cleansing service is sacrificed in favour of completing waste collection rounds. This is something that we are keen to avoid in our future service and would welcome recommendations as to how to achieve this.

The council would therefore like to commission work to assess the current street cleansing methodology and standards across WN and to make recommendations as to how this could be improved in the new arrangements from 2028.

**2. Approach**

This project is in three phases, although the commissioning of phase 3 is at the discretion of the council following tender submission - as follows:

1. To provide an evaluation of current standards of cleanliness across WN, to include an assessment of the equipment used, the level of resources deployed, and the standard of cleanliness achieved in each area.
2. To produce a set of recommendations for how a harmonised and efficient street cleansing service for the whole of WN could be improved from June 2028. This could include, but not limited to recommendations for the level of resources required to meet the Code of Practice, the type of equipment which should be invested in, scheduling, interaction with local litter picking groups, the role of town and parish councils, engendering civic pride, interdependencies with waste collection services and recommended delivery methods (in house, contracted out or Joint Venture).
3. To undertake a statistically representative sample of West Northamptonshire’s highways and land for which we have responsibility under the COP and assess them for cleanliness similar to, but not necessarily the same as the Best Vale Performance Indicator 195. Map the results of this survey so that areas of lower cleanliness standards are clearly identifiable.

**3.** **Current Service Scope**

The scope of the street cleansing services is as follows:

* Mechanical sweeping of public highway in towns, villages, some surface carparks and on major roads.
* Mechanical sweeping of areas prone to leaf and blossom fall.
* Litter picking of town centre areas, housing estates, villages, rural roads, surface car parks and from the laybys of major roads. Timely collection of drug related litter, bodily fluids etc
* Emptying of litter bins in town centres, areas of housing, villages, surface car parks and in laybys on major roads.
* Collection of fly-tipping, tipped on the public highway.
* Collection of dead animals from the highway.
* Removal of graffiti from WNC owned property.
* Removal of flyposting from WNC owned property.
* Removal of chewing gum from pavements.
* Collection of sacks of litter from volunteer litter picking organisations.

**4. Objectives**

**Part 1: Evaluation of Current Street Cleansing Methodology and Standards**

The council would like to commission an appraisal of our current street cleansing services, with key considerations to include, but not limited to:

* An evaluation of the current level of resources deployed on street cleansing in each of the 3 geographical areas. Are they sufficient? Does the stated level of resources match the day-to-day operation? How do they compare with each other? Quality of staff engagement and training.
* The equipment used on street cleansing services in each area. It is fit for purpose, effective, reliable? Are there gaps which need to be filled?
* What are the main street cleansing challenges in each area?
* What standards are achieved in each area? Do they meet the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse requirements?
* What are the strengths and weaknesses of the current service?
* To what extent are the actions volunteer litter picking groups and Town and Parish Councils supplementing the street cleansing service in each area.
* Consideration of whether litter picking, graffiti and fly poster removal in parks, play areas & Public Open Spaces would be more efficient if it was completed by the street cleansing team, or the grounds maintenance / parks team.

**Part 2: Recommendations for the Future Street Cleansing Service**

Using the information gleaned in part 1, the council would like a report detailing recommendations for improvements to the Street Cleansing Service from 2028, with key considerations to include, but not limited to:

* Recommendations for the optimum resource level that the service requires to meet the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, as a minimum, across all relevant land in WN.
* Recommendations for the best equipment to deploy to achieve high street cleansing standards across WN.
* Recommendations for the optimal way to organise the service, in terms of scheduling and frequency of cleansing activities in the different areas.
* Recommendation for any changes to the waste collection services which may result in improved cleanliness of West Northamptonshire's streets and urban areas.
* Case studies of best practice in street cleansing in other local authority areas which share similarities with WN.
* Pros and cons of the various procurement methods for street cleansing services and of whether to join the street cleansing with waste collection services.
* Pros and cons of an input based approached vs an output approach, should the work be contracted out.
* Undertake benchmarking of other areas similar in nature to WNC in terms of the cost of the service and the standard of cleanliness achieved, highlighting examples of where improvements have been achieved without increasing costs.
* Recommendations for effective litter prevention campaigns and initiatives which have been successful elsewhere.

**Part 3: Representative Sample of Cleanliness Standards Currently Achieved in West Northamptonshire**

**Note that the Council may decide not to proceed with this Part 3.**

* To identify areas of West Northamptonshire where good standards of cleanliness are being achieved and maintained and areas where there are not.

**4. Assumptions**

It should be assumed that:

* The commission is only concerned with street cleansing services, as per the scope in section 3.
* The council is open to considering street cleansing frequencies for certain areas and requires evidence as to why it would be reasonable to permit a tailored approach.
* The council has very limited scope to increase revenue budgets beyond annual cost inflation.

**5.** **Outputs**

It is expected that the appointed advisor will provide two written reports, one for each part as the output for the project as follows:

**Part 1: Evaluation of Current Service**

* A report detailing the outcome of your investigations and observations of our current services.

**Part 2: Recommendations for an Improved Future Service**

* A report detailing your recommendations on how the street cleansing services can improved when it becomes one services in 2028.
* Case studies detailing best practice in other authorities with similarities to WN.

**Part 3: Cleanliness Survey of West Northamptonshire (if commissioned)**

* A report detailing the survey methodology; how the representative samples were selected, how they were assessed for cleanliness and the results in map format. Commentary about the results of the survey extrapolated for the whole of West Northamptonshire.

**Parts 1, and 2**

* A presentation to senior officers and Members on findings. This will include the finding of part 3, if commissioned.

The outputs should be provided as a professionally produced report in Microsoft Word (.docx) and PDF formats, and any spreadsheets in Excel (.xlsx / .xlsm) format. The spreadsheets should be clearly and transparently laid out and capable of re-use such as adjustment of input values without the need for further specialist input.

The councils should be granted an irrevocable, royalty free licenses to use and adapt the outputs as they see fit.

**6. Timescales**

* Procurement to commence, week commencing 26th May 2025
* Deadline for bidder clarification questions, 5pm Friday 6th June 2025
* Deadline for responses to clarification questions, 5pm Friday 13th June 2025
* Deadline for bidder submissions, 9 am Monday 23rd June 2025
* Appoint and commence work, Monday 14th July
* Conclude work, Friday 10th October 2025
* Report submitted, Monday 13th October 2025
* Presentation to Senior Officers/Members, end of October/beginning of November 2025