

Report for Area East Committee on the Performance of the Environmental Services Team

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Purpose of the Report

To update and inform the Area East Committee on the performance of the Environmental Services team in the Area for the period March 2018 to October 2018

Recommendation

Members are invited to comment on the report

The major focus of the service so far for this period, are listed below.

- Routine annual work schedule for cleansing and grounds maintenance
- South West in Bloom
- Service transformation
- Development of the MOT facility in the vehicle workshops
- Annual budget outcomes

Operational Works

As always the main focus of the service has been to deliver the annual work schedules, as if these are delivered according to the plan, a successful service outcome is inevitable, resulting in low levels of complaints and good numbers of compliments, and once again we are pleased to inform members that this is currently being delivered to plan.

We are now completing the summer work programmes, namely weed control and mowing operations, which are always the main focus of the teams. This was initially difficult this year due to wet weather, but was followed by the dry, hot summer which enabled us to remain focussed on the operations although we did have to change our working patterns to manage the effects of the heat on our teams.

The season has been further complicated by the unfortunate long term sickness absence of a couple of our team, but we are working to address these matters with the individuals.

We have also started the winter litter picking of the main roads through the district. In Area East so far we've cleaned the A37 from Yeovil to Ilchester (removing 28 bags of litter) and the A359 from Yeovil to Bruton (clearing 33 bags of litter) and the team will continue to focus on this work over the coming months. The team has a plan to clean all of these roads and we are seeking advice regarding the required accreditation needed by the team to work on sections of the A303 if coned off to clean the central reservation.

We are still confident that we can install additional bins into the lay byes to help to reduce the volumes of litter that we find along this road and we are planning on installing these towards the end of the financial year.

In addition to this cleansing, we will be starting to deliver the program of cleaning the multitude of lanes through our district in the early New Year.

Should any town or parish based group wish to organise group litter picks of their neighbourhoods, our team will be delighted to support these through the provision of tools, equipment, protective clothing and removing the waste that is collected.

We are continuing with our highway weed control work plans and we are on schedule to complete the herbicide applications through all of the towns in the district before Christmas, with the villages being treated in the New Year in early springtime.

As always, we continue to focus on managing the number of flytips found in the district, the chart below shows the numbers of fly tips collected from Area East over the period since the last report. The figures indicate a healthy reduction in occurrences when compared to the same period last year when we cleared 160 fly tips across the area.

As always, we continue to focus on managing the number of flytips found in the district, the chart below shows the numbers of fly tips collected from Area East since the last report.

AREA EAST:	Mar 18	April 18	May 18	June 18	July 18	Aug 18	Sept 18	Total
Abbas &T/combe		3	1	1			1	6
Alford								
Babcary								
Barton St David				1				1
Bratton Seymour								
Brewham				1				1
Bruton							1	1
Castle Cary & Ansford					1	1		2
Charlton Adam		1						1
Charlton Horethorne								
Charlton Mackrell	1							1
Charlton Musgrove								
Chilton Cantelo					1	2	2	5
Compton Pouncefoot					1	2		3
Corton Denham								
Cucklington		2					1	3
Henstridge	2	2	1	1			1	7
Holton		1					1	2
Horsington						1		1
Ilchester			1			1		2
Keinton Mandeville						1		1
Kingsdon		1						1
Kingweston								
Limington		2						2
Lovington								
Maperton		1	1					2
Marston Magna	1		1					2
Milborne Port	1	1			2		2	6

Mudford	3	2		1	1		1	8
North Barrow								
North Cadbury			1	1				2
North Cheriton								
Penselwood								
Pitcombe						1		1
Queen Camel		2				1		3
Rimpton								
Shepton Montague								
South Barrow								
South Cadbury								
Sparkford					1	1		2
Stoke Trister	1					1		2
West Camel							1	1
Wincanton	8	3	2	1		3	1	18
Yarlington								
Yeovilton	1							1
TOTAL AREA EAST	20	21	8	7	7	15	12	88

Each year the South West in Bloom competition takes place and we were delighted to see that Milborne Port, Wincanton and Templecombe had excellent results which reflected the huge amount of work that was carried out by the 'In Bloom' teams in these towns. We offer our well-deserved congratulations to them and we were pleased to be able to assist and work with these groups to help present their neighbourhoods in the best possible manner.

Our winter horticultural maintenance plan is currently being developed and the parish bulb scheme is once again open to requests for spring flowering bulbs. We have a mixture of small bulbs that can be planted in a range of locations and provide not only colour in the springtime, but also nectar for a range of insects looking for this food source. We have also planned to undertake tree planting in Wincanton and Templecombe. Should members have any suggestions for further planting locations, we would be delighted to discuss these with you.

Looking forwards into the New Year, we will once again be offering the Christmas Tree recycling scheme to towns and parishes across the district, this has proven to be a great success over the last few years and we are delighted to be able to offer it once again,

We continue working with Somerset Waste Partnership in procuring a new collection contractor and the selection process is progressing well and we are confident that we will secure a service provider who will enable us to increase our recycling targets to meet national expectations.

The government is releasing information later this year regarding the scope of the Deposit Return Scheme a form of which has been introduced in Scotland, where a cash amount is refunded on the return of plastic bottles. The industry predicts an impact on recycling service as the volumes of recyclables collected at the kerbside will probably be affected, and the effect on street cleaning may result in a reduction in littering.

I will update members on these issues as we receive clear guidance.

The Yeovil Crematorium refurbishment continues to progress and the existing cremators have recently been serviced and some repairs carried out to ensure that they are able to provide reliable service throughout the refurbishment until the replacement models are installed. The overflow carpark has also been built and the project is developing to deliver a facility that is fit for the future.

The service continues to work with a number of Parishes across the district through the 'parish ranger scheme', offering a higher level of service and a solution to all of those little jobs which are so difficult to address. Should any parishes interested in this solution to local issues, we will be delighted to talk with them in more detail regarding this scheme and how we might be able to work together in the future. My thanks to all of those involved at the Parish Councils who make this scheme such a success.

On a positive note, we continue to invest in our staff through training and six of our staff are currently studying for an NVQ level 2 Amenity Horticulture, we believe that this will greatly benefit both the staff and the unit alike and shows our commitment to developing our teams.

Looking forwards we are also researching the various fuel sources and engine configurations we can choose from when we replace our vans and other commercial fleet. We have six vehicles approaching the end of their lease terms with us and we are planning to extend these arrangements until we have been able to fully research the other available options which will enable us to manage our workload effectively, efficiently and environmentally. I will update members on our findings in the next report.

Finally, I am pleased to inform members that the services all ended the last financial year with positive outcomes.

What's coming next?

- Delivery of the annual winter work programmes
- Completion of the main road highway litter picking program
- Installations of additional bins on A303 lay byes
- Completion of the highway weed control program
- Christmas tree recycling scheme
- Further progress on the selection of a waste and recycling contract provider

Financial Implications

All of the matters highlighted in the report have been achieved within service budgets.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

- Continue to deliver schemes with local communities that enhance the appearance of their local areas
- Continue to support communities to minimise floodwater risks.
- Maintain street cleaning high performance across the district.

Background Papers

Progress report to Area Committees on the Performance of the Streetscene service.
