



**Report Reference Number:** PR/21/8

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**To:** Policy Review Committee  
**Date:** 11 January 2022  
**Status:** Non-Key Decision  
**Ward(s) Affected:** All  
**Author:** Aimi Brookes, Contracts Team Leader  
**Lead Executive Member:** Councillor Tim Grogan, Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture  
**Lead Officer:** Keith Cadman, Head of Commissioning, Contracts and Procurement

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**Title: Street Cleansing in Selby District**

**Summary:**

This report has come to committee to allow Members to review the street cleansing service.

The report sets out the details of the existing service along with an independent review of standards by Keep Britain Tidy that was carried out in 2019.

**Recommendation:**

**That the Policy Review Committee note the contents of this report.**

**Reasons for recommendation**

To allow the Committee to consider current service provision.

**1. Introduction and background**

Street cleansing services are carried out as part of an integrated environmental services contract that includes domestic and commercial waste and recycling collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance. This contract is due to expire at the end of March 2024 and work has commenced on the first stages of contract succession.

The Council's street cleansing function is carried out in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) and the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.

Under these pieces of legislation every adopted road in the district is given a zone which determines frequency of cleansing. The zones reflect the amount of public usage / footfall.

Zone 1 – Main retail

Zone 2 – Other retail

Zone 3 – High density housing (generally terrace housing)

Zone 4 – Low density housing

Zone 5 – Medium density housing

Zone 6 – Industry / warehousing

Zone 7 – Main roads (these are A roads such as the A19)

Zone 8 – Rural roads

Zone 9 – Other highways

Zone 10 – Recreation areas (only those owned by SDC)

The Council is responsible for the cleansing of around 950km of adopted highway by means of litter collection and mechanical sweeping.

## **2. Cleansing Frequencies**

### **Litter Collection**

The Council has a team of nine full time street cleansing operative who work in set geographical zones around the district. Each village will receive a visit at least once a week, with frequencies based on footfall. Frequencies of visits range from daily (e.g., Selby town centre) to once, twice or three times a week in the villages.

Operatives carry out litter picking and emptying of litter and dog waste bins as well as clearing fly tipping.

There are currently around 720 litter bins and 320 dog waste bins in the district.

### **Mechanical Sweeping**

We aim to sweep all adopted roads within village / town boundaries on an 8-weekly rota, but this can be affected by a number of things including responding to emergencies such as spillages and RTCs and access issues. Kerbed rural roads are swept every 12 weeks.

Roads will not be swept if they are already at standard at the time of the visit.

The Council has one large mechanical sweeper which is operated on a double shift pattern. In addition, there is a smaller footpath sweeper which operates in and around Selby town centre.

## **3. Inspections and Grading Standards**

Under normal circumstances Officers carry out quarterly street cleansing inspections to ensure that contract standards are being met. These joint

inspections involve an SDC Officer and a representative from the Councils contractor. Inspections were suspended during 2020/21 due to Covid but restarted from Q2 of 2021/22.

In 2019 the Council commissioned an independent survey by Keep Britain Tidy alongside refresher training for staff carrying out the inspections. The full survey can be found at Appendix B, but headline results are shown later in this report.

Inspections take place using a nationally recognised grading system to assess levels of litter and detritus. These grades are from A to D.

### **Litter**

Grade A – no litter or refuse

Grade B – predominantly free of litter and/or refuse except for some small items

Grade C – widespread distributions of litter and/or refuse with minor accumulations

Grade D – heavily affected by litter and/or refuse with significant accumulations

### **Detritus**

Grade A – no detritus

Grade B – predominantly free of detritus except for some light scatterings

Grade C – widespread distributions of detritus with minor accumulations

Grade D – heavily affected by detritus with significant accumulations

When Officers are grading a street, the whole length will be assessed meaning that one small area of detritus or one small accumulation of litter would not put a street below standard if the rest of the area was clear. Fresh leaf and blossom fall is not classed as detritus and would not put a road below standard.

Grading photos for both litter and detritus are attached at Appendix A.

### **Leaf Fall**

In addition to the standard mechanical sweeping, a leaf collection round also operates through autumn. This round works on a rolling programme visiting leaf clearance hot spots throughout the district.

During autumn a street can be cleared of leaves one day and have a thick covering again the next, but it is not possible to sweep every street every week.

### **Inspection Results**

The following tables show the annual results of previous street cleansing inspections.

## Litter Results

Year	% Streets at Grade A	% Streets at Grade B	Total % at Standard	% Streets at Grade C	% Streets at Grade D	Total % Below Standard
2016/17	63.16	36.36	<b>99.52</b>	1.73	0.74	<b>2.47</b>
2017/18	57.59	38.40	<b>95.99</b>	3.40	0.61	<b>4.01</b>
2018/19	50.00	47.06	<b>97.06</b>	2.82	0.12	<b>2.94</b>
2019/20	55.71	42.59	<b>98.30</b>	2.54	0.16	<b>2.70</b>

The independent Keep Britain Tidy survey in November 2019 showed that at that time, only 4.17% of streets were below recognised standards for litter. This is well below the national average of 14%.

## Detritus Results

Year	% Streets at Grade A	% Streets at Grade B	Total at Standard	% Streets at Grade C	% Streets at Grade D	Total Below Standard
2016/17	11.67	76.04	<b>87.71</b>	7.90	4.39	<b>12.29</b>
2017/18	8.14	84.09	<b>92.23</b>	6.41	1.36	<b>7.77</b>
2018/19	3.36	75.12	<b>78.48</b>	19.40	2.11	<b>21.51</b>
2019/20	4.21	74.60	<b>78.81</b>	16.99	4.21	<b>21.20</b>

The Keep Britain Tidy survey in November 2019 showed that at that time, 13.75% of streets were below recognised standards for detritus. Whilst this is much lower than our own inspection results, it is slightly higher than the national average but standard for rural councils.

## **Community Support**

Alongside the contracted work, the Council has a number of active volunteer groups around the district that regularly carry out additional litter picking activities in their local areas. These groups are supported by the Council in terms of providing equipment and removing collected waste. Active groups / individuals can currently be found in Beal, Biggin, Bilbrough, Brotherton, Byram, Fairburn, Selby, Sherburn in Elmet, South Milford and Whitley.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Legal Implications**

The Council's street cleansing function is carried out in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) and the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.

## **4.2 Financial Implications**

Any significant change to the service would require additional revenue funding which would need to be approved by Full Council.

## **4.3 Policy and Risk Implications**

As 4.2 above.

## **4.4 Corporate Plan Implications**

The street cleansing service helps the Council to deliver great value by ensuring that we are providing high quality, effective and efficient services.

## **4.5 Resource Implications**

As 4.2 above.

## **4.6 Other Implications**

N/A

## **4.7 Equalities Impact Assessment**

N/A

## **5. Conclusion**

The street cleansing service consistently performs well with over 95% of streets at standard for litter during inspections since 2016/17. Any proposed changes to service provision could be fed into any contract re-procurement which would be subject to approval by the Executive.

## **6. Background Documents**

N/A

## **7. Appendices**

Appendix A – Grading Photographs for Litter and Detritus  
Appendix B – Keep Britain Tidy Local Environmental Quality Report November 2019

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