

City Clean Update for Central Ward

Cityclean is working hard to maintain the appearance of the city.

Current street cleansing resources

To maintain the city's town centre streets and cleanliness there are:

- four crews emptying street bins and clearing fly-tips
- 30 barrow rounds sweeping the streets
- These crews work from 5am in the morning to 10pm at night.
 - For the East area of the city there are:
- four crews emptying street bins and clearing fly-tips
- 21 barrow rounds
- two mechanical sweepers.
 - For the West area of the city there are:
- three crews emptying street bins and clearing fly-tips
- nine barrow rounds
- two mechanical sweepers

There is a rapid response crew that deals with dead animals, fly-tips and other urgent matters.

There are two graffiti units, one jetting unit and one repairs unit.

Jet washing is difficult to do, however, as it has to be completed when there is no footfall so there is a small window of opportunity between 5am and 10am (ish). It is also very time and resource consuming work.

Environmental enforcement

The Environmental Enforcement Team continue to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for a range of environmental offences including littering, fly-tipping and graffiti where sufficient evidence is available.

Refuse and recycling collections

Cityclean has experienced some operational issues over the summer, mainly affecting the refuse and recycling crews, but no doubt these are likely to have had an impact on the cleanliness, particularly where we have been unable to remove waste from refuse and recycling wheelie bins and communal bins. This would have led to an increase in litter, as well as fly-tips. The service disruptions over the summer related to vehicle breakdowns and the fire at Veolia which increased travel time by up to 3 hours to tip waste. This had an impact on collections. A report has been taken to the ETS Committee asking for investment to replace Citycleans aging Fleet. Procurement of new vehicles will help provide a more reliable service.

Cityclean has also recruited additional staff to reduce reliance on agency workers and this will help the service be more resilient. We are also engaging with key stakeholders relating to round changes.

Graffiti

As reported to Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee on 8 October in the Modernisation Update report, the Graffiti Reduction Strategy action plan is being delivered.

Recent action includes:

- Reviewing options for mobile CCTV to support the identification of culprits which will help in future prosecutions.
- Establishing a community clean up service for community groups, charities and schools to access supplies to paint out graffiti.
- Creating a paint repository to receive unused paint which residents and businesses can access to paint over graffiti in their neighbourhoods.
- Commissioning Phoenix Arts to create a mural in an area where there is excessive tagging.

We have also recently published our consultation on how we can better tackle graffiti and tagging in the city. The vast majority of tagging is on private property so we are asking the public for their views on how best we deal with this.

Weeds

As you are aware, Cityclean has not completed any weed spraying this year while non-chemical methods are explored. Instead, operatives have been piloting the manual removal of weeds. While we have not been able to cover all areas, we have learned from this and will be planning improvements over the winter to provide better coverage. We also found that in high footfall areas no weed removal has been necessary which will help inform our future plans.

A report will be presented to the November Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee regarding pesticide use for councillors to make a decision as to whether to use pesticides on the highway in the next financial year or continue to trial other non-chemical methods. If we end the use of pesticides on highways, there will inevitably be more weeds than previously in some areas; however this will have some benefits of increasing habitats for insects and bees etc.

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