

CAB729
FOR DECISION
WARD(S): GENERAL

CABINET

15 OCTOBER 2003

TRUNK ROADS LITTER CLEARANCE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND HOUSING

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RECENT REFERENCES:

HE13 of 3 July 2003 ("Environmental Health – Financial and Performance Outturn 2002/03").

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report outlines recent changes to the safety requirements for litter clearance operations on trunk roads and sets out the cost implications for the City Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Cabinet notes the possible need for up to £2,300 to meet the additional costs of trunk road litter clearance which will be met from existing budgets.
2. That Cabinet notes the increased costs for subsequent years, which will be included starting from the 2004/05 budget preparation process.

CABINET15 OCTOBER 2003TRUNK ROADS LITTER CLEARANCEREPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND HOUSINGDETAIL:1 Introduction

- 1.1 Section 89(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) places a duty on the Council as a "principal litter authority" to ensure that highways maintainable at the public expense are, so far as is practicable, kept clear of litter and refuse.
- 1.2 The Council's area includes two sections of trunk road; the A34 between Junction 9 of the M3 and Sutton Scotney Services, and the A303 from just east of Bullington Cross to the District Boundary north of Micheldever Station.
- 1.3 The A34 and A303 are heavily used, and consequently heavily littered. To comply with the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, which provides the practical guidance on the discharge of councils' statutory duties under the EPA, it is considered necessary to litter pick the nearside verges twice a year. Early in the year after commencement of British summertime, and in early autumn after the tourist season. The Highways Agency does not permit daytime work on these roads from June to September.
- 1.4 Until the end of last year the clearance of litter and debris from the verges of these roads was carried out directly by Serco under the Depot Services Contract, using their own labour and equipment. The approximate cost for a twice a year litter pick of nearside verges and lay-bys was around £8,000.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The Highways Agency manages England's strategic road network on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport and is therefore responsible for controlling and co-ordinating all activities on arterial primary trunk roads. Following a number of accidents involving work on the highway, the Highways Agency announced earlier this year that it now required all contractors working on such roads and those that place out warning signs to be quality assured in traffic management.
- 2.2 All formal traffic management must be installed and maintained by a Quality Assured Traffic Management Contractor Accredited to Sector 12 of the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) Scheme for Quality Management in Highway Work which covers temporary traffic management on motorways and high speed dual carriageways. Operatives engaged in traffic management must themselves hold Sector 12 Accreditation and all operatives must be appropriately trained in the constraints and dangers of working on a high speed, high volume road network.
- 2.3 Additionally, the Highways Agency requires that contractors use specified signing and 'block' and 'impact protection' vehicles with crash cushions, operate within stipulated times of the day and at 'off peak' periods of the year. Prior to undertaking

any work, an application for 'roadspace' must be made a minimum of 28 days in advance of the proposed start date of any work.

- 2.4 Serco are unable to comply with these requirements directly for reasons of scale and it is therefore necessary to employ specialist subcontractors with all the necessary training, equipment and accreditation to carry out the work.

3 Financial and Other Implications

- 3.1 Once draft guidance was received from the Highways Agency, Serco invited expressions of interest to undertake the work from six Highways Agency approved contractors. Two responded and a quote was subsequently received, from 'Highway Care' of Kent. The work was carried out during the latter part of May, supervised by Serco. It was performed to a high standard and over 5 tonnes of litter and rubbish was removed from the nearside verges of the A34 and A303. At £13,200, the cost was slightly higher than it might have been due to the extra build up of litter while waiting for Highways Agency guidance and seeking a suitable contractor.

- 3.2 A second quote of £11,550 has since been provided to undertake the autumn litter clearance of verges, plus a further £10,560 to litter pick the centre reservations on both roads. For safety reasons, in past years centre reservations have not been litter picked. However, they are heavily littered in places and now the contractor has the equipment and training to ensure safe working, it is recommended that to comply with the Code of Practice, the centre reservations are litter picked once a year.

- 3.3 For 2003/04 Cabinet has already approved a carry forward of £25,000 of managed savings from last year to help meet the additional costs of trunk roads litter clearance. Including a litter pick of the centre reservations, total cost for 2003/04 will be £35,310 against a budget of £33,000, including the carry forward sum.

- 3.4 Based on the latest quotations, for subsequent years the street cleansing budget will need to be increased by £25,660, plus allowance for inflation, and an appropriate sum will be included commencing with the 2004/05 budget preparation process.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

4 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 4.1 The proposal supports the Council's commitments to safety and protection and improvement of the environment.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 As stated above.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Highways Agency Guidance for Litter Picking on Trunk Roads.

Highways Agency Roadspace Possession Procedure Guide.

APPENDICES:

None.