



**Corporate Policy &
Resources Committee**

**Thursday, 12 December
2024**

**Subject: Recommendation from Prosperous Communities Committee:
Response to Motion - Increased Street Sweeping Capacity**

Report by:	Director, Change Management, ICT and Regulatory Services
Contact Officer:	Robert Gilliot Operational Services Manager robert.gilliot@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	The report sets out information in response to a Motion presented to Council on 4 March 2024 regarding exploring the financial implications and feasibility of increasing road sweeping capability, including the subsequent recommendation from the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 3 December 2024.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Members are asked to approve the implementation of option three within the report, that being: to employ an additional HGV Driver to work a four day on, four day off rota with current sweeper driver.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 West Lindsey District Council has a statutory duty to keep public highways free from litter and detritus.

Financial : FIN/107/25/MT/SSc

Members have requested increased street sweeping capacity options be provided. There are three options for consideration. Full financial details can be found in section 3.3.

Option 1 - Do nothing, carry on 'as is'

Option 2 - Hire another sweeper vehicle and another driver

Option 3 - Employ an additional HGV Driver to work a four day on, four day off rota with current sweeper driver

The comparison of options 2 and 3 to the current position (option 1) are shown in the tables below. Over a 5-year period option 2 would result in a pressure of £279.6k and option 3 would result in a saving of £9.6k. There are no funds available to cover any pressures.

Financial impact of option 2	2025-26	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27	2027-28	Total
Option 1 - Current Option	114,800	118,300	121,700	125,200	129,000	609,000
Alternative Options 2	167,300	172,600	177,600	182,700	188,400	888,600
Pressure/(Saving)	52,500	54,300	55,900	57,500	59,400	279,600

Financial impact of option 3	2025-26	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27	2027-28	Total
Option 1 - Current Option	114,800	118,300	121,700	125,200	129,000	609,000
Alternative Options 3	112,800	116,500	119,800	123,200	127,100	599,400
Pressure/(Saving)	(2,000)	(1,800)	(1,900)	(2,000)	(1,900)	(9,600)

. * The table are updated for the new NI rate of 15% (was 13.8%) and reduced allowance of £5000 (was £9100).

Staffing: HR ref: HR223-11-04

Each option has been considered for each option and the Service Manager would work with HR to plan and implement the approved changes.

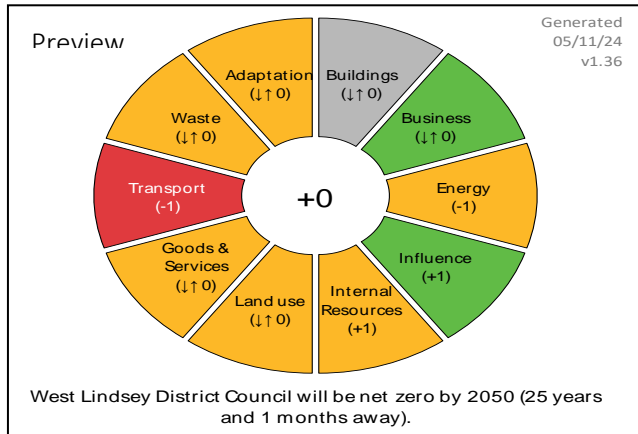
Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

None

Data Protection Implications:

None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:



Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 West Lindsey District Council has a statutory duty to keep public highways free from litter and detritus.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

None

Health Implications:

None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Motion to Council on 4th March 2024 and Minutes from meeting on the Council website:

<https://democracy.west-lindsey.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=3396&Ver=4>

Risk Assessment :

To be fully assessed and completed following committee decision

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

Executive Summary

The following report contains the information as it was presented at the meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on Tuesday, 3 December 2024.

The resolutions made by the Prosperous Communities Committee were that:

- the Motion be supported and capacity increased; and
- option three, to employ an additional HGV Driver to work a four day on, four day off rota with current sweeper driver, be recommended to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

Whilst there are no financial implications in terms of increased costs associated with option three, in fact there is a small amount of savings, it was considered prudent for the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee to maintain the final approval level, in view of recent, and upcoming, budget discussions.

The Corporate Policy and Resources Committee are asked to:

- approve the implementation of option three within the report, that being: to employ an additional HGV Driver to work a four day on, four day off rota with current sweeper driver.

1 Introduction

1.1 Council at its meeting on 4 March 2024 received the following motion: -

“The street cleansing team at West Lindsey have always done a fantastic job of keeping our streets clean and safe, however due to the increasing number of storms and occurrences of high winds, there is now far more debris in the roadside gutters than we used to get in the past.

In Nettleham, and other rural areas outside of Gainsborough, many roadside gutters are thick with mud, twigs, leaves, and other debris. After moderate rainfall this ends up in the drains and ultimately, they end up blocked. After storms or heavy rainfall, this exacerbates flooding issues and has created flooding in areas where we would not normally expect it.

West Lindsey currently has one HGV road sweeper operating on a 24–26-week schedule to cover all the towns and villages in the district. An additional HGV road sweeper is hired in November and December to deal with Autumn leaf fall, but footways are not touched.

Ad-hoc sweeping requests can be made to the street cleansing team, but the request-list extends the normal schedule, and where issues are caused by adverse weather events, the probability is that some wards could have to wait up to 5 months for road sweeping.

If the kerbside debris is not removed quickly then many drains could become blocked.

Given that we are told to expect a higher frequency of adverse weather events over the coming years, and flooding effects so many of our wards, it is important we do everything we can, within our remit, to try keep the drains clear.

I therefore call upon this Council to support me in requesting that the Prosperous Communities Committee explore options to increase our road sweeping capability, including the feasibility and financial implications.

I so move
Councillor Frazer Brown”

1.2 Having been seconded, under Council Procedure Rule 10.4: -

“ If the subject of a motion comes within the remit of any committee(s), it shall, upon being moved and seconded, stand referred without discussion to such committee(s) for consideration and determination.”

Council was advised the matter would stand referred to the Prosperous Communities Committee, for consideration and determination, with the motion submitter invited to attend and address the meeting at which the matter was to be considered.

- 1.3 This report explores some potential options to increase our road sweeping capability, including the feasibility and financial implications, therefore allowing Committee to consider the options, debate and determine whether they wish to apply a change to the Road Sweeping Policy.
- 1.4 It should be noted certain options, those with financial implications, would require a recommendation from Prosperous Communities Committee to the Corporate Policy and Resources for approval of the appropriate funding.

2 Current Position and Service Provision Level

- 2.1 Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 West Lindsey District Council has a statutory duty to keep public highways free from litter and detritus.
- 2.2 Currently Operational Services hires in one HGV road sweeper on a hire maintenance contract at the cost of £36,000 (plus £8.3k fuel) per annum.
- 2.3 This road sweeper is required to be operated by a Class 2 HGV driver at the cost of £37,200 per annum.
- 2.4 Currently, within West Lindsey, the HGV road sweeper covers every village in the district at least once annually (towns are done more frequently). The road sweeper is operated Monday to Friday (with Thursday as a day off) for 9.25 hours per day (plus attendance at Gainsborough Town Centre most Sundays on overtime at a cost of £16,700pa).
- 2.5 The HGV sweeper has a schedule of works it undertakes but may also be required to attend to ad hoc requests or private work at any time, such as occasional building site sweeps. Table 1 shows the volume and type of additional ad hoc requests, handled in 2023/24

Table 1 – Sweeper taken from normal duties 23/24

Operation	Numbers in 23/24
Private work	4
Reported service requests (on system)	40
Complaints	0

- 2.6 During the months of November to December the Council hires in another HGV sweeper and driver to undertake seasonal sweeping for leaf fall at a cost of £14,500 for the 2 months.

3 Potential Options for Consideration

3.1 Three options are presented below for consideration and to aid discussions. This is not an exhaustive list; however any alternative options would need to be fully costed before a recommendation could be made to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

Option	Pro's	Con's
1. Do nothing, carry on 'as is'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No contract changes or amendments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requirement for the continuation of overtime being paid • Only 4 days' standard operational work a week • No increase in capacity
2. Hire another sweeper vehicle and another driver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in overtime • More coverage of the district • No requirement to hire an additional sweeper for 2 months each year • 8 days a week sweeping (currently 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial implications of an additional £53k for 25/26
3. Employ an additional HGV Driver to work a four day on, four day off rota with current sweeper driver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in overtime • 7 day a week coverage of the district (currently 4 plus overtime) • More coverage of the district • Reduction in annual costs (£1.6k for 25/26) 	

3.3 The financial comparison for each Option is set out below for 2025/26, where Option 1 represents the current cost of the service.

Option 1	2025-26	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27	2027-28
HGV Sweeper hire for 12 months x1	37,300	38,400	39,600	40,800	42,000
HGV Sweeper hire for 2 months	6,200	6,400	6,600	6,800	7,000
Fuel for Sweeper 12 months x1	8,500	8,800	9,100	9,400	9,700
Fuel for Sweeper 2 months	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
Overtime for 12 months x1	17,200	17,700	18,200	18,700	19,300
Band5 driver with oncost & Market Supplement 12 months	37,900	39,100	40,100	41,200	42,500
Band5 driver with oncost & Market Supplement 2 months	6,300	6,500	6,700	6,900	7,100
Total	114,800	118,300	121,700	125,200	129,000

Option 2	2025-26	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27	2027-28
HGV Sweeper hire for 12 months x2	74,600	76,800	79,200	81,600	84,000
Fuel for Sweeper 12 months x2	17,000	17,600	18,200	18,800	19,400
Band5 driver with oncost & Market Supplement 12 months x2	75,700	78,200	80,200	82,300	85,000
Total	167,300	172,600	177,600	182,700	188,400

Option 3	2025-26	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27	2027-28
Fuel for Sweeper 12 months x2	17,000	17,600	18,200	18,800	19,400
HGV Sweeper hire for 12 months x1	37,300	38,400	39,600	40,800	42,000
Band5 driver with oncost & Market Supplement 12 months x2	75,700	78,200	80,200	82,300	85,000
Less Overtime with oncosts currently worked	(17,200)	(17,700)	(18,200)	(18,700)	(19,300)
Total	112,800	116,500	119,800	123,200	127,100

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Committee are asked to consider the information provided in response to the Motion to Council and determine whether capacity should be increased, and the Motion is supported.
- 4.2 Should the Motion be supported, Committee will need to determine to what extent, capacity is increased, (Option 2, Option 3 or an alternative) and make an appropriate recommendation to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee if necessary (where additional funding is required).