

## BRIEFING NOTE

### PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

15 JUNE 2023

**Reponses to questions asked by KALC Tonbridge & Malling, as per email received by TMBC's Democratic Services team on 12 May 2023**

**This briefing note is being provided in advance of the PPP meeting, and Cllr Martin Coffin, as the Portfolio Holder for Transformation & Infrastructure and whose remit includes the Waste & Street Cleaning Contract, will take any relevant questions at the PPP meeting on 15 June 2023**

**1. An update on the Urbaser Contract with specific details on Road Cleaning and Litter picking Schedules for Parishes**

Regarding the Urbaser Contract, attached is a report on the Contract's Key Performance Indicators which is to be considered by the Community & Environment Scrutiny Select Committee on 14 June. This data included within this report for each Key Performance Indicator is for the period April 2022 to March 2023, with comparative data for April 2021 to March 2022, together with percentage variance when compared with the 2021/22 performance. The exceptions are for those relating to recycling & composting performance, where the data for April 2022 to December 2022 is the most recent audited data available. These are shown in comparison with the same period in 2021, again with the percentage variance.

Street cleansing issues are addressed in the report at paragraphs 1.2.7 to 1.2.9 inclusive.

Regarding the specific details on Road Cleaning and Litter Picking Schedules, officers can confirm the following:

The Council's Street Cleaning Schedule, follows guidelines set out in a national code of practice and is based on categories of types of land, and on their intensity of use. The four main categories set out in the Code of practice are:

- *Category 1 High Intensity Use (busy public areas)*
- *Category 2 Medium intensity of use (everyday areas, including most housing areas occupied by people most of the time)*
- *Category 3 Low intensity use (lightly trafficked areas that do not impact on most people's lives most of the time)*
- *Category 4 Areas with special circumstances (situations where issues of health & safety & reasonableness are dominant considerations when undertaking environmental maintenance work)*

Each category is further broken down into sub-categories, for example:

- *Category 1:*
  - *a) Town Centre and busy areas; important seasonal hotspots (seasonal); including busy footpaths*
  - *b) Peripheral shopping areas; central public car parks; central recreation areas; town centre residential roads*
- *Category 4:*
  - *a) Low use recreational areas; public open spaces*
  - *b) Strategic routes with a persistent litter problem*
  - *c) Other strategic routes & rural main roads*
  - *d) Country lanes & rural footpaths – medium intensity*
  - *e) Country lanes & rural footpaths – low/medium intensity*
  - *f) Country lanes & footpaths – low intensity*

For each sub-category or zone, a cleansing frequency is allocated, appropriate to the nature of the category and intensity of use as set out on the code of practice. As such, for example, Category 1 (a) & (b) areas are cleansed daily. Category 4 (c) areas are cleansed every four weeks and Category 4 (f) are cleansed once a year.

Cleansing operations usually consist of a combination of litter picking, manual sweeping and mechanical sweeping (street sweepers) depending on the nature of the area, and whether it includes roads, footways, footpaths, car parks, etc. In some cases, such as roads where the speed limit is above 40 mph, traffic management measures have to be put in place in order for the cleansing works to be carried out safely, again adhering to national legislation & guidelines. This does make some cleansing operations particularly problematic in high risk areas such as high-speed rural roads and dual carriageways.

The categories & frequencies were stipulated in the original contract tender documents, and the submitted schedule is regularly reviewed and updated particularly when new roads are formally adopted by Kent Highways as these then usually become the responsibility of TMBC to cleanse. The schedule also includes the emptying of litter & dog waste bins. Again the frequency of emptying can vary – in these cases from daily to weekly - depending on the intensity of usage and location of each bin.

Cleansing works are regularly spot checked by officers in the Waste Services team to ensure that works have been carried out to standard. However, it should be noted that the street sweeping schedule can be disrupted due to a number of reasons such as staff availability, vehicle maintenance, roadworks, urgent cleansing work requirements, bad weather, etc. If a TMBC Waste Services Officer visits the location in advance of scheduled works and assesses that there is no requirement for those works at the scheduled time, the cleaning crew may be diverted to locations which are more in need of cleansing works.

Any enquiries about street cleansing should be dealt with by using the online report forms at [www.tmbc.gov.uk/forms/littering](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/forms/littering) or by contacting the Waste Services team by email at [waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk).

## 2. An update on Fly tipping in the Borough

Fly tipping data is provided in the attached report in the table at 1.2.2 and in paragraphs 1.2.11 to 1.2.12 inclusive. Although the report shows a comparison of total fly tip reports with other Kent districts, officers have here provided data of fly tips reported to the Council in 2022/23, broken down by area and compared with data from 2021/22:

LOCATION	TOTAL 2021/22	TOTAL 2022/23
Tonbridge	152	161
Snodland	55	75
East Malling	46	65
Blue Bell Hill	67	46
Wrotham	47	45
Aylesford	35	42
West Malling	32	40
Larkfield	46	38
Hildenborough	25	31
Hadlow	23	28
Burham	24	22
Mereworth	17	19
Stansted	15	19
Walderslade	42	19
Kings Hill	12	18
Wouldham	18	17
Borough Green	18	15
Addington	4	14
East Peckham	18	14
Leybourne	10	13
Wateringbury	10	13
West Peckham	11	13
Offham	4	12
Ditton	1	10

Trottiscliffe	17	10
Ightham	15	8
Plaxtol	13	8
Ryarsh	5	7
Birling	13	5
Platt	10	5
Shipbourne	8	3
Holly Hill	6	1
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>836</b>

The 12-month enforcement pilot referred to in the attached report at 1.2.12 is the subject of a separate report to the Community & Environment Scrutiny Select Committee on 14 June, in which the performance of the pilot in the first six months has been reviewed.