



## **CABINET – 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2025**

**SUBJECT:           PROPOSED CLEANING AND GREENING ENHANCEMENTS  
FOR THE COUNTY BOROUGH**

**REPORT BY:       DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND REGULATORY  
SERVICES**

### **1.     PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1    To seek Cabinet approval for the proposed programme for Cleaning and Greening enhancements around the county borough.

### **2.     SUMMARY**

- 2.1    It is proposed to implement a range of enhancements as part of the Council's Cleaning and Greening enhancement programme for 2025-26. An overview of this year's proposed programme is included in Appendix 1 with an estimated cost of £1.365m.
- 2.2    This will positively improve the appearance of the county borough with the intention to do so on an ongoing basis.

### **3.     RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1    It is recommended that Cabinet:
- Support the proposed cleaning and greening enhancement programme to be funded from the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) fund on an ongoing basis should this fund be sustained.

### **4.     REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1.   To seek to enhance the overall appearance of the borough following the reductions in associated budgets through many years of MTFP savings, that

have directly impacted how the borough looks and feels.

## **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 Over several years of achieving MTFP saving, the Council's programme of cleaning and greening enhancements has been reduced and/or withdrawn. Additional funding has been identified for 2025-26 that will facilitate the following programme of enhancements to be delivered and improve the general appearance across the county borough.

The source of the additional funding is from the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging that is a Programme for Government commitment. It means that businesses which supply and use packaging will have to pay for its management when it becomes waste. Under the scheme payment will be made to each Local Authority to cover the collection and disposal of packaging waste.

### **Reintroduction of Ward Cleansing Team**

- 5.2 This comprises of two teams of three personnel each with associated vehicles to undertake special cleansing operations requested by local members. Each ward would receive up to two one-week visits per annum to address identified issues within the locale to enhance the perception of the area. Any offers not taken up will be offered to other wards. Additionally, teams would target fly tipping instances following Enforcement evidence collection visits to promote a speedier removal and provide a better outlook for the Borough's residents.

**Proposed budget: £313k**

### **Reintroduction of Community Response Team**

- 5.3 The Community Response Team (CRT) comprises of two staff with associated vehicles to deliver a workstream targeting minor highway improvements and projects across the borough that achieve high profile outcomes and investment into our core towns and villages. It is envisaged that 'low cost but visually high impact' works will be undertaken and provide betterment across the Caerphilly Borough. This generally relates to community appearance schemes that are relatively minor, which cannot be readily dealt with via standard processes in a timely manner as they are not deemed as urgent items, or those that pose a safety threat to the network user. In essence the CRT improves and uplifts the aesthetics of each community, quickly and for relatively minimal costs.
- 5.4 Each ward would be offered one visit per annum of approximately one week, to address identified issues within the locale to enhance the perception of the area. The type of schemes typically include (but are not limited to):
- Repairing/painting community benches.
  - Cutting back overgrowth / re-establishing pavement width.

- Painting and repairing - posts, fences, railings, bollards.
- Cleaning directional signs.
- Pavement Clearance – removing detritus and weeds.

All communities will be afforded the opportunity to experience the CRT over the course of the year, as well as major towns providing additional focus in advance of any significant events, such as The Big Cheese, Caerphilly 10k, Seasonal Festivals and wider.

**Proposed budget: £126k**

### **Enhanced Mechanical Sweeping**

- 5.5 Additional provisions of a 15T Carriageway Sweeper and a Compact Sweeper would provide greater resilience to the current service by ensuring speedier completion of schedules with the extra resources and therefore ensuring greater occurrences of sweeping of individual streets per annum. The further provisions would also allow for utilisation to target hot spots or at risk locations for the highway user. This additional resource would be able to cover ad hoc requests for sweeping in a timely manner which would assist with service delivery and public perception aiding the cleaner and greener profile.

**Proposed budget: £254k**

### **Sign Cleaning & Vegetation Cut-Back around Signs on Cyclical Basis**

- 5.6 The authority manages 1200km of highway network across the county borough. As part of that network there is a significant amount of signage which needs to be maintained. The type of signage varies from those providing directions, displaying warnings, regulatory signage and those displaying information. This intervention will allow operational teams from both the Parks and Highways services to develop a cyclical programme of works to ensure any vegetation, which may be obstructing signage, is cut back. This will also be complimented by a programme of cyclical cleaning which will ensure signs are able to be clearly read by road users without compromising road safety.

**Proposed budget: £206k**

### **Weed Removal Team**

- 5.7 This intervention will see two operational teams from the Parks Service deployed on a cyclical basis across the six principal town centres (Caerphilly, Bargoed, Blackwood, Rhymney, Risca and Ystrad Mynach). Their role will be to remove and reduce weed growth from footways, gutters, gullies etc as well as taking preventative action such as the removal of detritus to prevent weed growth. These actions are complemented by the core funded applications of herbicide, sprayed on hard surfaces across the borough twice during the growth season (the first treatment undertaken in April/May and the second in

September). These staff can undertake additional weed spraying treatment where necessary. Currently, after weeds are treated, there is not a follow up programme of removal and often dead or dying weeds gives the appearance of our town centres being unkept and neglected. With this programme of removal and preventive measures, the visual aesthetics of the town centre offering will be improved, which will hopefully encourage people to shop locally, increase footfall and improve the local economy.

**Proposed budget: £170k**

### **Other Considerations**

- 5.8 A further strategic route cleanse is proposed to bring the schedule to quarterly for the year. The strategic routes get a lot of attention from residents regarding complaint generation.

**Proposed budget: £46k**

### **Gateway Enhancement Works**

- 5.9 There are eight key gateways into the county borough, these are located at Rhymney, Nelson, Machen and Penrhos in Caerphilly, Llanhilleth (from Bleanau Gwent) Risca, Blackwood and Hafodyrynys. This intervention will allow operational teams from our frontline service areas such as Parks, Highways and Waste Management to ensure that visually these key gateways portray a clean and welcoming environment for our residents and visitors to the county borough. Any vegetation or overgrowth can be managed on a cyclical basis along with any tree felling, sign cleaning, enhanced grounds maintenance including the creation of wildflower meadows and enhanced cleansing regimes.

**Proposed budget: £250k**

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 None.

## **7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 The proposed works seek only to deliver enhancements to local communities and will also serve as preventative measures e.g. to help reduce the impact of flooding incidents. Improvements such as this encourage local communities to take more pride in where they live and further improves people's mental health. Therefore, an Integrated Impacts Assessments is not required.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The proposed cleaning and greening programme is expected to cost £1.365m to deliver and would be fully funded from EPR Funding on a recurring basis should this funding be sustained.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Any additional personnel required to deliver these services will be provided from either existing staff resources, fixed term appointments or agency staff. The costs for these resources have been built into the budget.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 The consultees listed below have been consulted on this report and their views have been incorporated accordingly.
- 10.2 The report was presented to the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The views of the Scrutiny Committee will be reported verbally to Cabinet.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Author: Clive Campbell, Transportation Engineering Manager

Consultees: Councillor Chris Morgan, Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces  
Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Highways  
Councillor Andrew Whitcombe, Chair of Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Shane Williams, Vice Chair of Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee  
Richard Edmunds, Chief Executive  
Rob Hartshorn, Director of Environment and Regulatory Services  
Marcus Lloyd, Director of Infrastructure and Waste Services  
Steve Harris, Director of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer  
Leanne Sykes, Deputy Director of Financial Services and S151 Officer  
Lynne Donovan, Director of People Services  
Robert Tranter, Director of Legal, Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer  
Gavin Barry, Highway Operations Manager  
Mike Headington, Service Manager: Green Spaces  
Hayley Jones, Waste Strategy and Operations Manager

Appendix 1: Cleaning & Greening Potential Enhancements

## Appendix 1 - Cleaning & Greening Potential Enhancements

**Cost (£)**

Headline Description	Detailed Description	Capital	Revenue
1.Reintroduction of Ward Cleansing Team	2x teams of 3 personnel and vehicle to conduct special cleansing operations requested by Local Members. Each ward would receive 2 number 1 week visits per annum		£313K
2. Reintroduction of Community Response Team	Team of 2 personnel and vehicle to undertake be-spoke tasks requested by members – could include issues like fence/railings repairs or painting, etc. Each ward would receive 1 week per annum.		£126K
3. Enhanced Mechanical Sweeping	Greater use of mechanical sweepers to clear up litter and detritus on main highways (to prevent weed growth) and in town/village centres. Additional large and small (pavement) sweepers?		£254K
4. Sign Cleaning & Vegetation Cut-Back around Signs on Cyclical Basis	Team of 2 personnel and vehicle and specialist equipment to routinely manage the cleanliness and visibility of signs across the County Borough.		£80K for overgrowth removal (Parks). Highways sign cleaning £126k
5. Weed Removal Team	2x teams of 3 personnel and vehicles for 6 months (April to September) and equipment to work on a cyclical basis across towns and villages to remove weeds and undertake any prevention works (like removal of detritus build up or spraying) to prevent re-growth.		£170K
6. Other Considerations Include: Street Washing? Graffiti Removal? Roundabout tile cleaning / painting	Additional bypass/strategic route cleanse per year		£46K
7. Gateway Enhancement Works	Cyclical vegetation cut-back/tree felling to open up and maintain gateway routes into the County Borough. To be funded from SPF programme in 2025/26 SPF Allocation is £250K between the three areas.		£100K Parks £65K Highways  £85K Waste Management

**TOTAL      £1.365M**