

Subject: Cleansing of Main Roads - Update

Report to: Environment Committee 12th April 2017

Report by: Glenn Buck Group Manager Environmental Services

SUBJECT MATTER/RECOMMENDATIONS

This report is intended to update members on the review of the methods employed by GYB Services with respect to highways cleansing.

INTRODUCTION

At the Environment Committee on 1st March 2017, members raised concerns at the amount of litter particularly that was visible on some of the main roads in the Borough. Although a number of these roads were the responsibility of Highways England and Norfolk County Council Highways to maintain, cleansing including activities such as litter removal falls to the Borough Council to undertake. The Council's operational partner, GYB Services undertakes this cleansing.

Members were advised that the issue had been recognised and that discussions were underway with GYB Services around the mechanism for such cleansing. A significant factor in the cleansing of these areas is the extremely high risk nature of the activity when considering worker safety operating on such roads where vehicles are travelling at high speeds.

CURRENT POSITION

The issue has been reviewed together with GYB Services. They are in the process of reviewing, updating and improving their risk assessments and working practices in line with updated guidance and best practice to ensure that staff remain as well protected as possible. Key to safe working practice is the provision of clear signage kerbside to warn drivers well in advance with new large rear-of-vehicle signs to help push drivers away from the nearside of roads, particularly those with fast speed limits. GYBS have commissioned the manufacture of these new signs which it is hoped will be available shortly and the revised and updated safe practices will be put into action imminently.

In addition Highways England have been asked for details of their new contractor so that we can open up a dialogue to enable better cooperation between both operational elements. For example the Borough can arrange for litter picking at the same time that Highways England are cutting verges. To date a response from Highways England is awaited.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to note the update.

