

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE  
CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES**

**TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM**

**8 APRIL 2014**

**CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS STREET CLEANSING**

**1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the Town and Community Forum the levels of financial contribution made by Town and Community Councils, to Bridgend County Borough Council, towards the cost of street cleaning activities in their areas.

**2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority**

2.1 There is a direct link with the improvement priorities detailed in the corporate plan under Priority 6 - "Working Together to Make Best Use of Our Resources".

**3. Background**

3.1 Street cleansing is a statutory function and it is a duty of all local authorities to ensure that all relevant land is, so far as is practicable, kept clear of refuse, litter and detritus. It is a high profile service since all residents and visitors will be directly affected by the levels of service provided and the standard of cleanliness of our streets.

3.2 Standards of street cleansing are increasingly perceived as a measure of how well a local authority is performing. Improvements in service delivery, often achieved using existing resources more effectively, can improve public opinion of the service delivered and the reputation of the authority in general.

3.3 Street cleaning in Bridgend County Borough is provided by a directly employed workforce, who clean the streets and town centres on a daily basis. The principal activities are listed below: -

- Manual sweeping, litter picking.
- Management of litter bins
- Removal of fly tipped waste
- Mechanical sweeping
- Graffiti removal
- Public convenience management
- Gum removal
- Flood support

## 4. Current Situation

- 4.1 Contributions have been received from a number of Town and Community Councils to enhance the cleanliness standards in their areas, detail on the levels and purpose of the contributions is provided below for information.

### Street Cleansing activities in 2012/13.

- Bridgend Town Council provided £2,500 for jet washing and gum clearing in Bridgend Town Centre.
- Cornelly Community Council provided £1,040 for annual cleansing of Community Council owned bus shelters
- The following Town and Community Councils provided funding for the provision and installation of additional litter bins:

Bridgend Town Council - £2,220.75

Maesteg Town Council - £2,810

St Brides Minor Community Council - £720

Laleston Community Council – £2,230

Coity Higher Community Council - £720

Coychurch Lower Community Council – £460

### Street Cleansing activities in 2013/14.

- The following Town and Community Councils provided funding for the provision and installation of additional litter bins

Maesteg Town Council - £5,390.25

St Brides Minor Community Council - £460

Pyle Community Council - £460

- Due to the ongoing regeneration works in Bridgend Town Centre, Bridgend Town Council has elected not to fund the jet washing and gum removal works in in the town centre in 2013/14.
- Pencoed Town Council has recently employed 2 part time manual operatives who work a split week, Sunday to Wednesday and Wednesday to Saturday. The duties of these operatives are to undertake a range of activities in and around the town centre, such as grounds maintenance, grass cutting, car park cleansing and other work as required. From April, the Town Council which owns the local toilet facility will also take on responsibility for the day to day cleansing and opening of the toilets.

- 4.2 Looking forward the resources available to Bridgend County Borough Council will come under increasing pressure, as the Council introduces measures to balance the budget deficit resulting from the recent round of public sector cuts to funding in Wales. Regrettably street cleaning services along with other visible frontline functions will not be able to escape their share of these cuts, which in this instance will result, in less resources being deployed on litter picking and other street cleaning activities.

4.4 In order to maintain the levels of service enjoyed by Town and Community Councils over recent years, or to improve on these levels of service, Town and Community Councils may wish to consider expanding the current collaborative working relationships with the County Borough Council and either directly employing operatives, or making increased financial contributions towards the costs of street cleaning services, where they wish to see an increased standard of cleanliness in their area.

**5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules**

5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules.

**6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

**7. Financial Implications**

7.1 The contributions from Town and Community Councils help to meet the cost of providing the service and enhancing the current standard.

**8. Recommendation**

The Town and Community Council Forum are asked to note the content of the report.