

**BRIEFING NOTE STREET CLEANING AND REFUSE COLLECTION – OBAN
TOWN CENTRE**

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This briefing note confirms the operational arrangements in place for street cleansing and refuse collection in Oban.

2.0 DETAIL

Street Sweeping and Cleansing

- 2.1 At present there are three members of staff undertaking street sweeping duties in the Oban area. The shift patterns and a general overview of their duties are summarised below:-
- Sweeper 1 works from Monday to Thursday 07:00 to 15:00 Friday 07:00 to 14:30. Work schedule involves first part of the day Patrol Sweeping - this involves the sweeper brushing and picking areas that have excessive areas of litter/debris and litter picking between these areas not brushed. Time spent in Town Centre area is approximately 4 to 5 hours per day between 07:30 to 14:00. The remainder of the time is spent on litter picking round high school area.
 - Sweeper 2 works from Wednesday to Saturday 07:00 to 15:00 Sunday 07:00 to 14:30. Work schedule includes Wednesday to Friday within the town centre for period of 2 to 3 hours between 07:30 to 11:30 thereafter working in residential areas within Oban. On Saturday and Sunday 4 to 5 hours between 07:30 to 14:00 within town centre then as directed by the supervisor. This includes working outside Oban litter picking laybys and Ganavan.
 - Sweeper 3 works from Friday to Tuesday 08:00 to 16:00 Wednesday 08:00 to 15:30. Town Centre working 2 to 3 hours per day with a last visit through the town between 14:00 and 15:30. The remainder of the time spent cleaning residential areas and litter hot spots in town as directed by the supervisor.
- 2.2 The hours spent within the town centre area may vary between summer and winter season, depending on demands in the town and surrounding area.

- 2.3 The mechanical sweeper, the green machine, was lost in the Mill Park Depot fire last year. The previous supplier is no longer operating in the UK and as a result it is proving difficult to source a like for like replacement. Officers are currently in the process of procuring an alternative mechanical sweeper to use in the Oban area.
- 2.4 Power washing provision is also available to treat significant surface staining. However, frequent power washing is not recommended as this could have an adverse impact on jointing mortar which would be detrimental to the paving's integrity. Jet washing will remove most stains and will clean the paving but stone paving will 'dull' down over time and some stains will penetrate into the material. This will result in some staining and discolouring of the material as part of the natural ageing process. It is encouraging to note that the various traders who use public spaces for serving food/beverage continue to play their part in tidying their immediate area which adds to the partnership approach of keeping the town clean and tidy for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Litter Bins

- 2.5 During low season the Towns litter bins are serviced 5 times per week on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. In high season this increases to 7 times per week with the two additional collections being on Tuesday and Thursday. Since the completion of the public realm works and new bins being installed (which have flaps to deter scavenging gulls) there have been no reported instances of bins overflowing. Bins and street cleanliness will be monitored. If necessary adjustments to scheduling will be considered providing the overall service can continue to be delivered within available budget.
- 2.6 There is some limited anecdotal evidence to suggest that commercial fly tipping has been taking place in some of the on street bins. Businesses are required by law to have an auditable arrangement for the disposal of their trade. This will be monitored by our environmental wardens and any necessary action taken.

3.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 **Policy** - Street sweeping policy was established through Service Choices as part of the 2016 budget process.
- 3.2 **Financial** - Through budget reduction and the Service Choices process street cleansing was reduced by 25% last financial year.
- 3.3 **Legal** – None known
- 3.4 **HR** – None known
- 3.5 **Equalities** – None known

3.6 **Risk** – None known

3.7 **Customer Service** – None known

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