

Matter which the Chair has decided is urgent as the report was brought forward at the same time as the budget consultation report due to the need to amend the revenue budget (if agreed), as well as start work on the posts associated with the service and publicity required to notify residents about the change.

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 15 January 2026
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Place Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Revised Street Scheme Strategy (2026-2031)
Purpose of Report:	To seek authority to approve a new “Street Scene” based cleansing service incorporating priorities of Place Making
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services
Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Committee Reports Director of Place Director of Corporate Resources Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer Operational Manager - Accountancy
Policy Framework:	This report is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet
Executive Summary: - The Council provides its street cleansing service under imposed duties, under Section 89 of the Environmental Protection (EPA) Act, 1990. The Council's duty is to keep specified land and adopted highway free of litter and refuse. It is the Principal Litter Authority and has overall responsibility for the associated statutory duties, which are not transferable. - The current service has a challenging savings target of £191k (financial year 2025/26), as well as outstanding savings from previous years and is currently operating over budget in excess of £400k per annum. Therefore, to achieve further efficiencies and to meet current budget pressures, a strategic review has been instigated as part of the Council's Reshaping programme. - As part of this review, options for a service within the existing budget has been undertaken, alongside considerations for further options, that invests in the service in the short term. - During consideration, the service area received notification that they will be reimbursed for managing packaging waste through the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme (EPR) which has been anticipated for several years. - The Council's EPR payment for 2025/26 will be £3.8m and exceeds expectations. In subsequent years payments will continue annually, but they are determined by our recycling and waste data and the amount of packaging placed on the market by producers each year.	

- The EPR allocation needs to be allocated to recycling and waste activities, but there is an option to use some of the EPR funding to support waste from bins to extract recycling, where EPR related material i.e. packaging, exists. This will support some disposal and recycling costs attributed to the challenging street cleansing budget.
- Also, confirmation of funding will provide a budget to roll out the kerbside collection of soft plastics across the Vale of Glamorgan, on a permanent basis by adding it to the existing kerbside collection service.
- Additionally, as the Council's recycling and waste service has already implemented high performing kerbside collection services in comparison with other UK Authorities who are generally well below the performance across Wales, there is an option to reallocate some of the Neighbourhood Services revenue budget to launch a new "Street Scene" cleansing based service.
- To ensure there were appropriate options for consideration, the work undertaken has explored an option to enhance local environmental quality and to align this with the Council's Place Making priorities. These options are set out within the report and includes an option (3) that provides a transformational investment of circa £1m to increase the budget that enables a step change in service quality, visibility, and community engagement
- This financial context sets out the scale of investment required to move from a constrained and reactive model to one that is proactive, responsive, and aligned with the objectives of Vale 2030 and Place Making priorities.
- It is proposed that the preferred option 3 be adopted, with a realigning of budgets in Neighbourhood Services. This would then enable a more strategic, sustainable, and place-based approach to service delivery.
- It is proposed to redesignate the service name from Street Cleansing to Street Scene and incorporate a focus on engagement and working closer with other partners. It will also concentrate resources where there is greatest demand and footfall with a particular focus on our four main towns of Penarth, Barry, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge, all of which have Place Plans approved (or drafted, as in the case of Barry).
- There will also be enhanced cleaning of public conveniences to compliment the work of a new Street Scene service and our Place Plans for our four towns. This will require an increase to the existing revenue budget, in addition to the financial commitment of option 3, as detailed within the finance section.
- With a greater investment, a new Street Scene service would reinstate town sweepers, gateway and sign cleaning, have a greater emphasis on weed removal in civic areas, provide enhanced engagement with stakeholders to ensure effective coordination of volunteer and other organisation contributions, enabling a service that is strategically aligned with our communities demands, and have an ambition to truly create great places to live, work and visit, a key objective of Vale 2030.
- Once operational, the service area will subsequently produce a 5-year strategic plan, that will support our transition from a Council that provides and delivers the majority of services, to a Council that increases the emphasis on facilitating and supporting the delivery of services in key locations. The aim is to provide an enhanced level of service that is sustainable for future years when budget pressures increase and EPR funding reduces.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet notes the reimbursement of £3.8m from PackUK, this financial year, for managing packaging waste in 2021/22 through the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme (EPR).
2. That Cabinet agrees in principle to the rebranding of Street Cleansing replacing it with a new modern Street Scene service that will be focused on engagement and seek to increase community involvement and participation.
3. That Cabinet agrees in principle, the allocation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) funding for 2025/26 and 2026/27 as detailed within the report.
4. That Cabinet agrees in principle to amend the Neighbourhood Services revenue budget for 2025/26 and 2026/27, as detailed within the report.
5. That Cabinet agrees in principle to repurpose and create the posts identified within the report.
6. That Cabinet agrees to roll out weekly kerbside collections of soft plastics utilising EPR funding, across the Vale of Glamorgan on a permanent basis, from 13th April 2026.
7. That the use of the Council's urgent decision procedure, as set out at section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution, be agreed for recommendation 6 of this report.
8. That this report is referred to the Place Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
9. That in view of no recommendations being received from the above Committee, recommendations 1-5 be agreed.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. So that Cabinet is sighted on this year's EPR payment in respect of the assessment year 2021/22.
- 2-5 To ensure the "in principle" agreement of Cabinet to the recommendations, prior to them being considered by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.
6. To extend the kerbside collection of soft plastics to all residents across the Vale of Glamorgan.
7. So the arrangements for the kerbside collection of soft plastics can be facilitated due to the lead time of up to 12-weeks to order bags, arrange deliveries and design the appropriate literature.
8. To permit consideration of these matters by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.
9. To permit all recommendations to be taken forward as promptly as possible.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council provides its street cleansing service under imposed duties, under Section 89 of the Environmental Protection (EPA) Act, 1990. The Council's duty is to keep specified land and adopted highway free of litter and refuse. It is the

Principal Litter Authority and has overall responsibility for the associated statutory duties, which are not transferable.

- 1.2** To ensure the Council's cleansing related activities remain compliant with the EPA Act, the service area approaches service delivery in accordance with Welsh Government's statutory guidance document, the Code of Practice (COP) on Litter and Refuse and Associated Guidance 2007 (COPLAR). This is the current COP, but it is currently being revised. The service area has been contributing to this process by attending workshops with Keep Wales Tidy and Welsh Government and revised guidance is expected late 2026.
- 1.3** As with other Local Authorities across Wales, there has been unprecedented financial challenges in recent years which has impacted on frontline services, and it has been necessary to review and deliver service efficiencies wherever possible.
- 1.4** Most recently, the service area savings target was £191k (financial year 2025/26), but the service has yet to fully achieve savings from previous years and is currently operating over budget in excess of £400k per annum. Therefore, to achieve further efficiencies and to meet current budget pressures, a strategic reshaping review was instigated.
- 1.5** The Reshaping Services Programme is a strategic initiative aimed at transforming the way the Council delivers services, ensuring sustainability, efficiency, and responsiveness to community needs. It is a key enabler of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and annual budget strategy.
- 1.6** Following Cabinet approval in January 2024, the programme entered a refreshed phase, informed by post-pandemic learning, the Council's Recovery Strategy, and the development of the Vale 2030 Corporate Plan. The programme focuses on areas of high financial and operational pressure to reduce reliance on tactical savings and safeguard capacity for preventative and priority services.
- 1.7** The service area engaged the Transformation Team as part of the Reshaping Programme, to align the service with a balanced budget, as well as considering options that would potentially invest in the service in the short term, with an intention to improve the management and maintenance of public realm across the Vale of Glamorgan, with a particular focus on towns, aligned with Place Plans.
- 1.8** Alternative options range from a balanced budget to an initial investment of up to £1m in the short term that provides options to enhance local communities at the start of the Place Making plans with a longer-term strategy to share local environmental responsibilities that are eventually community led.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** Initially at the commencement of this current review, there were obvious constraints that limited the ability to enhance service standards due to ongoing budgetary constraints.

- 2.2** During consideration, the Council received notification that it will be reimbursed for managing packaging waste, through the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme (EPR) which has been anticipated for several years, through 3-seperate payments between November 2025 and March 2026.
- 2.3** The Legal purpose of EPR funding is to cover the Council’s “chargeable disposal costs” as defined in the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging and Packaging Waste) 2024, (The Regulations).
- 2.4** The UK Government, specifically the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) appointed PackUK as scheme administrators, and they will assess what payments are made to Local Authorities, across the UK, based on our recycling and waste data.
- 2.5** PackUK’s purpose is to transfer the financial responsibility for managing household packaging waste from taxpayers and Local Authorities to businesses that utilise, supply, and profit from packaging.
- 2.6** This initiative follows the ‘polluter pays’ principle. In its role, PackUK will determine the fees for EPR, collect these fees from obligated producers, and facilitate packaging waste disposal payments to Local Authorities. These payments are intended to ensure efficient and effective collection services.
- 2.7** The Council’s EPR payment for 2025/26 has been confirmed at £3.8m and exceeds expectations. In subsequent years payments will continue annually but they are determined by our recycling and waste data and the amount of packaging placed on the market, by producers each year.
- 2.8** Over time packaging placed on the market will reduce and therefore, so will Local Authority payments.
- 2.9** At present, the Council’s payment reflects the collection year 2021/22, so it's likely that we will receive substantial payments for the next few years ahead, but it is likely to be on a decreasing scale.
- 2.10** To note, EPR funding is ring-fenced for recycling and waste related services, but it can be extended to service-related investment opportunities. Guidance for EPR is as follows:

Permitted uses of EPR funds

- Collection and disposal of household packaging waste
- Recycling infrastructure, operations, data collection and reporting
- Public education and engagement around packaging waste
- Litter-related activities linked to packaging waste

Restrictions on EPR fund usage

- General street cleaning unrelated to packaging (EPR litter payments pending)
- Cleaning of non-packaging waste
- Staffing or equipment for general environmental maintenance

- 2.11** Although the entire EPR allocation needs to be allocated to recycling and waste activities, there is an option to use some of the EPR funding to support waste

from bins to extract recycling, where EPR related material i.e. packaging, exists. This will support some disposal and recycling costs attributed to the challenging street cleansing budget.

2.12 Additionally, as the Council's recycling and waste service has already implemented high performing kerbside collection services in comparison with other UK Authorities with performance below the levels seen in Wales, there is an option to reallocate some of the Neighbourhood Services revenue budget to launch a new "Street Scene" cleansing service. The Council is currently, one of the top performing Local Authorities in the UK and already invests heavily, in its waste service, at its own expense.

2.13 This effectively means the Council has some scope to realign Neighbourhood Services revenue budgets in the same service area, as long as it continues to spend the EPR equivalent on EPR related services. At present there are no plans to reduce services, and it is likely that further recycling schemes will be introduced over time, but this will be subject to a separate report other than a recommendation, to roll out the collection of soft plastics across the Vale of Glamorgan from 13th April 2026.

2.14 Against the above context, there has been a review, under the auspices of the Reshaping programme of the priorities within Neighbourhood Services with the aim being to significantly enhance local environmental quality and to align with the Council's Place Making priorities.

2.15 The reviews are set out below in brief:

The review considered 3 options, and these are set out as below.

Option 1

This option delivers a model within the existing budget but requires a further reduction of services, a reduced workforce, and a review of our external arrangements. It incorporates a reduction in staffing expenditure of £205,000 (inclusive of overtime and agency costs).

As a result, the service would be limited to delivering only core statutory functions, with no capacity for rapid response or additional cover during peak periods. This would significantly impact on the Council's ability to maintain a reasonable level of localised environmental quality, and it would be limited in responding to community expectations for wider improvements. It will, however, deliver a balance budget.

The annual cost for this service would be £1,590,852.

In summary, this would reduce the existing workforce and reduce cleansing standards and frequencies of cleaning and would require a further rationalisation of litter bins by around 200.

Option 2

This option exceeds the existing budget by approximately £205k and retains some existing temporary staff, but lower levels of strategic route cleansing, lane cleansing and existing service standards. It is important to note that existing standards are already falling short of public expectation, with frequent complaints about cleanliness, weed growth, and the general appearance of public spaces. While this option almost preserves the status quo, it does not address ongoing concerns. Limitations would remain, including infrequent sign cleaning, inconsistent weed removal, and limited staffing in town centres, which would be at odds with the concept of place making. In effect, this option sustains a level of service that is already perceived as inadequate by many residents but close to the existing budget.

The annual cost for this service would be £1,785,880.

This would retain existing limited-service standards and continue to receive some public dissatisfaction.

Option 3

This is the preferred option, that has an investment-led approach that enhances workforce capacity and introduces new dedicated Street Scene teams to tackle broader environmental issues such as fly-tipping, sign cleaning, weed removal in public areas, and gateway cleansing.

This model directly responds to resident feedback and aligns with the Councils Place Making ambitions. A key feature is the provision of dedicated town centre sweepers and the creation of rapid response teams to deal with urgent issues quickly and visibly. Weekly and enhanced cleaning of key gateways into towns would improve first impressions as well as enhancing pride in local public realm and spaces.

This model also introduces digital innovations for reporting and receiving feedback, for issues such as litter and fly-tipping enabling a more responsive and data-informed service. Other investment such as in-cab technology and electric fleet also supports a more strategic, sustainable, and environmentally responsible operation.

This will require a service investment of circa £1m in addition to the existing budget, for a minimum period of 2-years with subsequent tailing off, as it transitions to sharing service responsibilities with other partners. This option absorbs the existing service overspend within the model as well as introducing other resources, as detailed below.

The annual cost for this service would be £2,582,507.

- 2.16** All options will require a significant change to how teams operate, with a new strategy to optimise vehicle use, workforce development, and service delivery through digitisation. This would include route optimisation to save fuel and increase productivity, and the use of QR codes for ease of reporting any environmental related instances, and for efficiency of response.
- 2.17** Option 3 with an initial transformational investment of circa £1m, enables a step change in service quality, visibility, and community engagement. This financial context sets out the scale of investment required to move from a constrained and reactive model to one that is proactive, responsive, and aligned with resident expectations, objectives of Vale 2030 and Place Making priorities.
- 2.18** It is proposed that the preferred option 3 be adopted, with the realignment of the waste revenue budget that the Council sets. This would not affect the EPR funding, as this would still be allocated to packaging material to comply with guidance. This would then enable a more strategic, sustainable, and place-based approach to service delivery.
- 2.19** This would also result in the redesignation of the service from Street Cleansing to Street Scene and a focus on engagement and working closer with other partners, including voluntary groups, Town and Community Councils and other organisations. It will also concentrate resources where there is greatest demand and footfall, especially focussed on our four towns. Alongside this, it is proposed we consider future service delivery models that will potentially link in with Town Councils.
- 2.20** A new Street Scene approach based on option 3, would introduce and develop the following:

Enhanced Community Engagement – This option proposes to establish a new approach to facilitate the launch of a new Street Scene service and provide the link between Neighbourhood Services and Town Councils, Community Councils, community groups, Keep Wales Tidy, the Probation Service, Youth Offending teams, and litter picking volunteers. It is proposed that staff will facilitate and coordinate a joined-up approach between Council services and all other stakeholders.

Eventually these posts will replace traditional structures as partnership working progresses and once this alternative strategic model is adopted for the longer term, staff will need to have a different skill set with more emphasis on facilitating services.

Gateway Cleaning – At present, gateway cleansing is restricted to once every 3-6 months, or even just by inspection or complaint, with a limited resource working once per month to cover every strategic route around the Vale of Glamorgan. However, this option proposes to reinstate weekly working and bi-monthly cleaning with accessible areas increased to monthly or even weekly/fortnightly frequencies for town centres and priority areas within towns.

This would involve litter picking teams and mechanical sweepers cleaning strategic routes and key gateways into the Vale of Glamorgan and key towns.

Sign cleaning – This option proposes to purchase new equipment for power washing that will allow for the instatement of regular road sign cleaning with the ability to respond to instances of graffiti more efficiently, and periodic town centre cleaning.

Local Town Sweepers – This option proposes to reinstate local town sweepers at towns with Place Plans namely Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major (Local town sweepers at Barry have never been removed). This model can also facilitate closer links with Town Councils and prioritise local environmental priorities and tasks.

New dedicated Place Based Teams – This would include the introduction of 5 designated teams for the 4 key towns and 1 for large villages. These teams would provide the environmental enhancements as well as delivering rapid responses to litter instances, spillages, and by providing the resources for the weed removal/sign cleaning as detailed above, at town, gateway or civic areas. The approach will involve bespoke “Street Scene” vehicles with Place Making and Vale 2030 branding and in time, have in-cab technology linking to QR codes for additional services. These codes will be strategically placed around towns for prompt responses to service requests.

There is also a future option to base these resources, as well as dedicated town sweepers, at Town Councils to develop closer partnerships with a place based approach, to the four main towns.

A dedicated fly tipping approach (Barry) – Option 3 provides additional resource for removing fly tipping specifically for Barry. Other areas already have resources but the demands around Barry are quite significant in comparison. This resource will provide regular inspections of problematic areas namely around Holton Road, Broad Street, High Street/Island Road and remove any waste bags and fly tipping as well as Barry wide, on a more responsive schedule rather than just being reactive, to complaints.

Additional capacity – At present, the service area externalises some lane cleaning work as it does not have the specialist machinery and narrow access vehicles necessary, for entry into alley gated lanes, especially around Barry. This option proposes to provide the dedicated fly tipping team, with appropriate machinery so that surrounding areas of the town have periodic cleaning more often and at lower costs than is currently the case.

Increased weed removal/control – This option provides additional resources for the removal of weeds and detritus from a lack of routine maintenance, or a failure to sufficiently manage growth, from town and or civic areas/centres as well as supporting these areas in our larger villages. Additionally, during leaf fall, extra resources would be deployed and a greater emphasis on the coordination with partners using dedicated proposed community engagement officers.

Public convenience cleaning – There will also be enhanced cleaning of public conveniences, to compliment the work of a new Street Scene service and our Place Plans for our four towns.

At present, public conveniences are only cleaned once per day and the frequency of cleaning will increase to a minimum of three times daily. New enhanced service standards will be clearly visible and displayed by digital means and QR codes available for feedback and to report any concerns.

This will require an increase to the existing revenue budget, in addition to the financial commitment of option 3, as detailed within the finance section.

- 2.21** For the remainder of 2025/26 it is proposed that there is also some realignment of the revenue budget to prepare for Option 3, from next financial year and these are detailed in the financial section of this report. It provides additional budget to sustain existing costs and investment for the necessary equipment (vehicles and machinery) for lane cleaning.
- 2.22** To enable a move, at pace, to this new strategic model, the current operational staffing arrangements are insufficient. For several years, posts have been withheld in preparation for annual budget reviews and service-related efficiencies. Option 3 would make some posts permanent, and the remaining on fixed term contracts so there is flexibility when there is a need to reduce the size of the workforce and budget.
- 2.23** To effectively introduce option 3 from next financial year, the service area would need to create 17 new positions and advertise 5 existing vacancies. Each option has an element of recruitment as the service area has been overcautious over several years, as a result of uncertainty around annual financial challenges.
- 2.24** In recent years there has been an over reliance on agency staff, and this formalises new and vacant positions and reduces the need for temporary staff other than over summer periods, at resorts.
- 2.25** Engagement with partners is viewed as a long-term approach given that the Council will increasingly move to a facilitator and enabler of a community led approach, alongside and as part of the Place based approach in our four towns.
- 2.26** This provides the service area with flexibility and enables consideration of how services can be delivered in the future, with an ambition to share delivery responsibilities, with our partners and our community.
- 2.27** The employment section of this report details the recruitment requirements and considers the need to work across the organisation and link this work, in with the work that will continue on Place Plans for the four towns.
- 2.28** Engagement with all partners will be key to the success of a new sustainable Street Scene service, in the longer term. Liaison and ongoing engagement will be fundamental in delivering a shift in the way services are delivered in future.
- 2.29** This will involve incorporating and strategically planning and enhancing the work of our partners and various stakeholders. This includes Town and Community

Councils, Keep Wales Tidy, Probation Services, Youth Offending Teams, individual litter picking volunteers and the introduction of new initiatives such as “Adopt a street”.

- 2.30** The aim will be to make it easier for communities to get involved in matters that enhance Street Scene, and this includes provision of information, equipment and support. This approach links directly into Vale 2030 and the objective of ‘Making the Vale a great place to live work and visit’.
- 2.31** Once operational, the service area will then produce the 5-year strategic plan, that will support our transition from the Council being solely responsible for providing services, to sharing the responsibility and supporting key stakeholders, so an enhanced level of service is sustainable for future years when budget pressures increase and EPR funding reduces.
- 2.32** The 5-year strategic plan will be incorporated within a new Street Scene Strategy (2026-2031) and will detail current service demands, how these will be managed in future years, the transitional plan and our environmental ambitions that match our corporate priorities. It is suggested that the new 5-year Strategy is presented to Cabinet for consideration, Spring/Summer 2026.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The proposals reflect the **Five Ways of Working** as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act:

Long-term: The introduction of a new “Street Scene” service supports and enhances our long-term investment in our communities and provides a blueprint to maintain local environmental quality standards, for the longer term with a clear strategy on how this will be sustained. The emphasis on community engagement and volunteering helps future-proof the service against potential budget reductions.

Prevention: This new way of working ensures that we have the ability to address issues such as littering and fly-tipping and to enhance the appearance of our towns and gateways and prevent environmental decline and to build and improve community pride.

Integration: The proposals align with the Vale 2030 Corporate Plan and placemaking strategies, contributing to well-being objectives such as “Creating great places to live, work and visit” and “Respecting and celebrating the environment”.

Collaboration: The review will involve cross-departmental working and consider feedback from residents and community stakeholders. It will also enhance and create partnership working in collaboration with Town Councils, Community Councils, Keep Wales Tidy, Probation Services, Youth Offending Teams and community volunteers.

Involvement: The new service model places a strong emphasis on working with community groups and volunteers, ensuring that residents are actively involved in shaping and maintaining their local environment and eventually being community led.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** The proposals support the Council's commitment to tackling the climate and nature emergencies as outlined in the Climate Emergency Charter and Project Zero. Investment in electric fleet vehicles and smarter technology will reduce carbon emissions and improve operational efficiency. The Street Scene Team will contribute to biodiversity and environmental quality by maintaining gateways, green spaces, and signage, supporting the Council's goal of becoming a net zero organisation by 2030.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** It is proposed that the trial on soft plastic kerbside recycling service, be rolled out permanently across the Vale of Glamorgan from 13th April 2026 and funded from Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) settlement.
- 5.2** Additionally, all treatment of EPR material from street cleansing collections be funded from EPR, circa £250k per annum. This captures additional recycling material and contributes to our performance as a Waste Authority as well as against Statutory Recycling Targets (SRT's).
- 5.3** The preferred option 3, suggests an additional investment of circa £1m by realigning Neighbourhood Service budgets as a result of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) funding to launch a new Street Scene service from April 2026.
- 5.4** It is proposed to allocate funding over 2025/26 and 2026/27 as follows:

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) funding 2025/26

Proposed allocation/investment	£000's
In-cab technology	200
Existing service (immediate pressures)	1,500
On-street recycling provision	100
Treatment of EPR material (recycling enhancement)	250
Soft plastics (bags)	50
Soft plastics infrastructure (Cowbridge to facilitate roll out)	75
2 x FTE's for processing soft plastics	75
Reallocation of Neighbourhood Services revenue budget	1,000
* Street Cleansing (likely overspend 2025/26) (£400k)	
* Plant and Machinery for lane cleaning (£200k)	
* Place making vehicles (£400k)	

Total	3,250
EPR 2025/26 payment	3,800
Balance to be c/f to 2026/27	550

Note – This EPR funding is based on the collection year - 2021/22

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) funding 2026/27

Proposed allocation/investment	£000's
Existing service (immediate pressures)	1,500
On-street recycling provision	100
Treatment of EPR material (recycling enhancement)	250
Soft plastics (bags)	50
Soft plastics (processing)	250
2 x FTE processing soft plastics	75
Provision for SMWG	650
Provision for BREF	50
Street scene (Option 3 investment)	1,000
* Any balance will be allocated to EV recycling vehicle purchases	TBC
Total	3,925
Less balance c/f	550
EPR 2026/27 (subject to payment confirmation)	3,375

Note – This EPR funding will be based on the collection year 2022/23

- 5.5** Additionally, there will need to submit a cost pressure of £100k, for additional resources, to enhance public convenience cleaning.

Employment

- 5.6** Option 3 proposes to create circa 22 new roles, although an element of these posts are currently vacant and or covered by agency staff.

- 5.7** A breakdown of resources and the associated costs are summarised below.

Recruitment requirements

Position	Number of posts	Status	Comments
Street Scene Officer	1	Permanent	Will also require redesignation of the existing Team Leader post
Drivers (Non-LGV)	9	5 Permanent	There are not enough driver posts in the service, there

		4 on Fixed term contracts (initially 2-years)	are staff currently acting up and an over reliance on agency staff
Senior Street Scene Driver	1	Permanent	New position that coordinates teams for lane cleansing, fly tipping and income
Street Scene Drivers	6	Permanent	New positions that will need to be created for the new Place Making teams
Street Scene Operatives	5	1 x Permanent 4 x fixed term contracts	Place making teams and some flexibility to review the establishment in later years

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.8** The proposals will be delivered in accordance with the Council's statutory duties under the section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which requires specified land and adopted highways to be kept free of litter and refuse. Failure to maintain these standards could result in enforcement action and reputational risk; the proposed service model mitigates this by ensuring compliance with current and forthcoming statutory guidance, including the revised Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR).
- 5.9** All procurement activities for vehicles, equipment, and technology will comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Legal advice will be sought where necessary to support procurement, contract changes, and workforce adjustments.
- 5.10** The introduction of digital innovations such as QR codes and in-cab technology will be implemented in accordance with UK GDPR and the Council's Data Protection Policy to safeguard personal data and ensure secure handling of service-related information.
- 5.11** An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken to ensure that service changes do not disproportionately affect protected groups and that accessibility for all residents, including those with disabilities, is considered in service design. The proposals will also comply with the Equality Act 2010 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 5.12** Governance arrangements will ensure transparency and accountability, with oversight by Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees. These proposals align with the Council's corporate priorities and statutory obligations, supporting a sustainable and legally compliant approach to service delivery.

6. Background Papers

None.