

**SALISBURY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL DELEGATION PROCEDURE**

COMMITTEE CONCERNED: **CABINET**

FROM: **R Chequer. Waste Management Officer**

SERVICE UNIT: **Environmental Services**

DATE: **07 July 2006**

**Street Cleansing Grants to Parish and Town Councils  
Scheme for Enhancement Highway Cleansing**

Following representations from Council Members and Parish Councils the Improving Waste Management Board at its meeting on the 26 June 2006 supported an amendment to the "Scheme for Enhancement Highway Cleansing".

The amendment to the existing policy (Housing and Health Committee 25 March 1986) would mean that, in addition to street cleaning activities, other litter reduction or prevention measures could be undertaken or introduced for which the Street Cleaning Grant can be claimed by parish or town councils eligible for this grant.

Please see attached report approved by the Council's Improving Waste Management Board (Cllr D Brown Portfolio Holder and Cllr J Brady Deputy Portfolio Holder for Environment & Transport, D Dixon Policy Director, N Darbyshire Acting Head of Environmental Services and R Chequer Waste Management Officer.)

This request to amend an existing Council Policy is being submitted in order to implement the amendments at the earliest opportunity and enable Parish and Town Councils to prepare and submit applications for consideration in sufficient time for any work to be completed within the financial year.

(Please tick relevant box)

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>	<b>OFFICER</b>	<b>COMMENTS (incl)</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>
Legal	JC		None	
Financial			None	
Procurement Manager				Not Applicable
Personnel				Not Applicable
Environmental	R Chequer	Contained in attached report		

Co-ordinated with

Officer (s)

Unit (s)

**APPROVED :**

Leader : ..... Portfolio Holder : .....

Copy to: Chair & Vice Chairman of relevant Scrutiny Panel

# Report

**Subject** : Street Cleansing Grants to Parish and Town Councils  
**Report to** : The Improving Waste Management Board  
**Date** : 26 June 2006  
**Author** : Bob Chequer  
**Cabinet Member:** for Environment & Transport Councillor Dennis Brown

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## 1. Summary:

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

1.1.1 Propose an amendment to the existing policy that, in addition to street cleaning activities, to permit litter reduction or prevention measures to be undertaken or introduced for which the Street Cleaning Grant can be claimed by parish or town councils eligible for this grant.

## 2. Background

2.1 At its meeting on 25 March 1986 the council's Housing & Health Committee approved the "Scheme for Enhancement of Highway Cleansing" whereby selected Town and Parish Councils would be given the opportunity to carry out additional cleaning of the highways if they so wished. A Town or Parish Council could carry out additional cleaning where, and as frequently, it considered necessary, subject to the total expenditure not exceeding £1,000 (the grant approved at that time) in each financial year.

2.2 Detailed conditions of the scheme were prepared at that time. (See appendix 1)

2.3 From the commencement of the scheme seven Parish / Town Councils were eligible for this grant: Amesbury, Bulford, Downton, Durrington, Mere, Tisbury and Wilton. With effect from 1 April 2005 three further Parish Councils became eligible for this grant: Alderbury, Laverstock and Redlynch.

2.4 Since 2003/04 there has been a fairly consistent use of the scheme according to financial records:

2.4.1 In 2003/04 of the seven Town or Parish Councils entitled to claim the £1932 street cleaning grant five councils claimed the full grant and two submitted claims for a lesser amount.

2.4.2 In 2004/05 again, of the seven Town or Parish Councils entitled to claim the £1932 street cleaning grant five councils claimed the full grant and two submitted claims for a lesser amount.

2.4.3 In 2005/06 ten councils were entitled to claim the £750 street cleaning grant of whom seven submitted claims for the full grant, two for a lesser amount and one made no claim.

2.5 Following an unsuccessful claim at the end of March 2006 to use the grant for the purchase of litter bins, Laverstock PC queried whether the existing policy is "out-dated" and requested a review of the scheme to meet the needs of the councils for whom it is intended.

### **3. Considerations**

- 3.1 The financial records indicate that consistently 70% (five out of the seven or seven out of the ten) councils eligible for the grant make full use of it. This does not support the suggestion that the scheme is not used by many of the town or parish councils.
- 3.2 Would those councils continue to undertake enhanced cleaning of highways if an easier managed yet less effective alternative were available, leading to a possible decrease in the amenity standard of those areas?
- 3.3 The provision of extra litterbins will not necessarily be a solution to littering from passing vehicles.
- 3.4 We should avoid the grant being used just because it is there to be used without some justification that the outcome of the expenditure will remove, reduce or prevent litter on the highway.

### **4. Conclusions**

- 4.1 The councils should not lose sight of the improvements that have been gained by using these grants to remove litter from the street scene. Alternative uses for the grant should promote measures to support ongoing cleansing. In order to be flexible we should not just consider one or two possible options for the use of the grant other than for the cleansing of highways but review applications for alternative uses on their individual merit.
- 4.2 The Waste Management Officer or nominated deputy for this purpose will be responsible for evaluating grant applications and deciding whether or not an application is suitable for grant support.
- 4.3 If town or parish councils wish to request the grant for any other purpose than carrying out cleansing activities applications should be made as early as possible in the appropriate financial year to ensure completion of that application within that financial year.
- 4.4 Applications for the supply of litterbins will be considered as part of an overall litter reduction or prevention programme on highways. The siting of bins will be subject to the agreement of the Waste Management Officer or nominated deputy. Town or parish councils will be responsible for fixing the bins on site, emptying and servicing, and arranging with the Waste Management Officer or nominated deputy the point of collection for the bagged litter arisings.

### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 That the existing policy be amended so that, in addition to street cleaning activities, other litter reduction or prevention measures can be undertaken or introduced for which the Street Cleaning Grant can be claimed by parish or town councils eligible for this grant.
- 5.2 Applications for alternative uses of the Street Cleansing Grant will be considered and evaluated on the merits of the proposals affect in reducing or preventing litter on, or littering of, the highways.
- 5.3 The Waste Management Officer or nominated deputy for this purpose will be responsible for evaluating grant applications and deciding whether or not an application is suitable for grant support.
- 5.4 When it is agreed that the grant can be used for the provision of litter bins, town or parish councils will be responsible for fixing the bins on site, emptying and servicing, and arranging with the Waste Management Officer or nominated deputy the point of collection for the bagged litter arisings.

**Copy of:**

**CONDITIONS FOR SCHEME FOR ENHANCEMENT OF HIGHWAY CLEANSING**

Approved by the Housing & Health Committee 25 March 1986

1. The scheme shall apply to the following parishes only:

Amesbury	Durrington
Bulford	Wilton
Downton	Tisbury
Mere	

2. The scheme shall not apply to any trunk road.

3. Each Town and Parish SHALL be responsible for:-

- a) The enhanced cleaning of highways where it appears necessary in the interests of public health or the amenities of the area.
- b) Employing a part-time hand sweeper.
- c) Providing as necessary brooms, shovels, plastic sacks and protective clothing.
- d) Determining the areas to be swept/scavenged
- e) Determining the hours to be worked.
- f) Arranging the rate of pay per hour.
- g) Paying the employee direct
- h) Claiming grant for the expenses incurred excluding VAT from the District Council by submitting copies of invoices every three months.
- i) All necessary indemnities and insurances.
- j) Monitoring expenditure to ensure that the grant sum awarded by the District Council is not exceeded.

4. The expression "highway" under this scheme includes carriageways and footways together with verges and lay-bys which are maintainable at public expense.

5. Subject to compliance with the conditions in clause 2 above the Salisbury District Council SHALL grant a sum of money equal to the expenses incurred by each Parish / Town Council provided that such sum shall not exceed £1,000 during each financial year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April.

6. The District Council will collect the sweepings from an agreed site on an agreed day.

7. The District Council will review the scheme annually.

8. The Salisbury District Council reserves the right to cease operating the scheme after giving three months' notice in writing.