



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	23 rd September 2020 **
Report Author	Darren Chaffe
Service Area	Neighbourhood Services – Highways
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	7 th October 2020

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Gully Sucker Business Case

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Highways service manage the gully cleansing service within the County Borough. There are currently between 10,500 & 12,000 gullies within Merthyr Tydfil that require routine maintenance to ensure that the drainage system functions effectively. Other items that require regular cleansing are cattle grids, beany blocks, and Aco drainage systems. The number of gullies increase every year due to new housing developments being built and adopted.
- 1.2 The gully cleansing service is currently provided by Caerphilly County Borough Council at a cost of approx. £58k per year.
- 1.3 Elected members have requested that a business case be prepared providing options for bringing the gulley sucking service back in house. The business case attached as Appendix 1 sets out 4 options.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

- 2.1 Council consider the business case attached and Option 3 (In house gully service – Lease hire) be approved.
- 2.2 A further report be presented to Council detailing the full costs of the approved option.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Highways service manage the gully cleansing service within the County Borough. There are currently between 10,500 & 12,000 gullies within Merthyr Tydfil that require routine maintenance to ensure that the drainage system functions effectively. Other items that require regular cleansing are cattle grids, beany blocks, and Aco drainage systems. The number of gullies increase every year due to new housing developments being built and adopted.
- 3.2 As well as the maintenance programme the Gully machine identifies drainage issues, such as blocked gullies or pipes, incidents are identified and prioritised on a risk-based basis, and works are costed and planned for repair.
- 3.3 In 2018, as part of a budget efficiency saving, Council agreed that the Gully cleansing service would be sub-contracted out to Caerphilly County Borough Council at a cost of £58k per year approx. The gullies and their immediate pipe connections are cleansed and emptied as part of a bi-annual (every 2 years) proactive maintenance programme. The contract with Caerphilly CBC requires us to give 6 months notice of termination.
- 3.4 This report is being presented to Council as a result of requests by members for a business case setting out the options for bringing the service back in house.

4.0 BUSINESS CASE

- 4.1 The business case attached sets out 5 options:-
- Do nothing / remain as is
 - In house gully service - Purchase a gully sucker (new)
 - In house gully service - Lease hire a gully sucker
 - Sub-contract a gully service 52 weeks a year
 - In-house gully service - Purchase a gully sucker (Second Hand)
- 4.2 All of the identified options increase the frequency of cleaning all gully's in the County Borough to annually (currently bi-annually)
- 4.3 The Business case identifies that bringing the gully sucking service back in-house will have the benefit of being able to respond more quickly to any potential incidents, or blockages identified and give peace of mind to residents that the service will be more responsive. The resilience to respond and undertake the service will be of benefit to the Council and residents.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial implications of providing the gully sucking service in house are detailed in the Business case attached at Appendix 1, and a financial summary is provided at Appendix 2.

6.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	2 of 4	0 of 4	2 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics <i>(including Welsh Language)</i>	0 of 10	0 of 10	10 of 10
4. Biodiversity	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1
<p>Summary: The main positive impacts are improving frequency of cleansing gully's in the County Borough and making people feel secure in their property, knowing that MTCBC have reacted and responded to the Storm Dennis flooding.</p>			

JUDITH JONES
CHIEF OFFICER PLANNING &
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

COUNCILLOR DAVID HUGHES
CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING &
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		NO

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.