
FULL COUNCIL REPORT

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|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Date Written | 19 th October 2020 ** |
| Report Author | Darren Chaffe |
| Service Area | Neighbourhood Services – Highways |
| Exempt/Non Exempt | Non Exempt |
| Committee Date | 4 th November 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 On the 7th October 2020 Council approved the recommendation to progress Option 3 of the business case, to provide an in-house gully service.
- 1.4 The report sets out the cost of doing so and the associated anticipated timescales for introducing the in-house service.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

- 2.1 The proposal to set up an in-house gully sucker service based on the information presented at para 6.1 be approved.

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.

4.0 THE GULLY SUCKER SERVICE TO BE PROVIDED

- 4.1 The proposed service will increase the frequency of cleaning all gully's in the County Borough to annually (currently bi-annually), and 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.

4.2 Staffing structure

- 4.2.1 Two new staff members will need to be recruited & trained to operate the gully machine full time. Existing staff will also need to undertake the relevant training to operate the specialised equipment to cover for holidays and any sickness. Staff from other Neighbourhood Services Department's will need to be trained to cover emergencies that may occur out of hours, as highways staff will be on a standby rota covering Winter Maintenance (6 months of the year) and Sewer standby (12 months). The gully machine training will involve daily & weekly maintenance checks, pre-shift checks, safe operating practices and high-pressure water jetting.

4.3 Software

There are currently a limited number of software systems that will help programme and manage gully cleansing services. One of the systems currently being looked at is KOREC - K-Gully, which is a full, end to end, gully cleansing, recording and reporting system. It combines a sophisticated tool for managing the cleaning programme, and for end clients, a high-quality record of the on-site work completed and includes: -

- Customisable data collection forms
- Live device tracking for efficient emergency response
- Wireless transfer of daily assignments
- Client Log in for 'real time' access to progress
- Wireless transfer of work completed
- Full background mapping streaming service included (including OS Mastermap)
- Full 'off-line' use support • Full history of all inspections maintained
- Intelligent scheduling functionality
- Daily Progress Reports • Live interactive map
- Project Progress Reports • Public issue reporting module available

This system has an installation cost of £2177.00 and annual licence charge of £5,000.00 p.a.

4.4 Waste disposal

We are currently in discussions with local waste disposal companies on taking our future gully waste. Accurate waste data is required as the tonnages contribute to our recycling targets. We are also exploring the option of creating reed beds within the County Borough in order to dispose of the waste ourselves, we will assess the cost effectiveness of this married against the timescales involved given the need for licences and infrastructure. The cost of waste disposal specified in para 6.2 below is based on disposal at Bryn Pica, which is where we disposed of gully waste when it was previously an in-house service, but we will continue to review the most cost-effective means of disposing of our gully waste.

5.0 **TIMESCALE FOR INTRODUCTION OF THE IN-HOUSE SERVICE**

- 5.1 Since the business case was presented to last Council, the Fleet Transport Manager has set about exploring the most cost-effective means of providing an in-house gully sucker service. Procuring a gully sucker via contract hire would be a more efficient solution than leasing as it would include maintenance, repair, and tyre costs, as well as a replacement vehicle when repairs are being carried out. A further advantage of contract hire is that the gully sucker would be available within weeks, enabling us to introduce the in-house service sooner than anticipated once the 6 month notice period that we are required to serve on our current provider Caerphilly CBC has expired. Should Council agree the proposal, notice will be served on CCBC by the 6th November 2020.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The financial implications of providing the gully sucking service in house are detailed below:-

| <u>Staff costs</u> | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Post 1 - @ grade 3 | 30,505 |
| Post 2 - @ grade 4 | 35,246 |
| stand-by | 320 |
| call out | 1,036 |
| Total Staff cost (£) | 67,107 |

| <u>Vehicle Costs</u> | |
|---|---------------|
| Repairs / Maintenance included in Hire Contract | 0 |
| Tyres included in Hire Contract | 0 |
| Fuel | 9,645 |
| Contract Hire Costs (per year on 12 months rolling) | 38,220 |
| Total Vehicle Costs (£) | 47,865 |

| <u>Supplies & Services</u> | |
|---|---------------|
| Bayard Key | 3,550 |
| Water charge | 998 |
| Waste Disposal | 80,881 |
| Training / Licenses | 0 |
| K-Gully licenses Charge | 5,000 |
| PPE | 1,500 |
| Total Supplies & Services Cost (£) | 91,929 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Total Revenue Costs (£) | 206,901 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|

7.0 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.