

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE****6 May 2026****Officer:** Stuart Farmer – Operations Manager**STREET CLEANSING TEAM UPDATE****Purpose**

To update the Council the work and implementation of the Street Cleansing Team.

Staffing

Following a successful recruitment process eight of the nine positions on the Street Cleansing positions were filled, this included the roles of Team leader and two positions of HGV drivers for the road sweepers. Two positions were filled with staff that were subject to TUPE regulations and have transferred with the contract.

Two members of staff transferred to the service from the Steeping Up Team, including the team leader role these positions on the Steeping Up team have since been filled.

The team were able to start work Shrewsbury Town Council on 23rd March to allow for inductions and training to completed in good time.

Machinery

One of the biggest challenges faced for the April 1st deadline was the procurement of the vehicles and machinery required for the service. Separate tender processes were published for the following machines and vehicles

- 15-ton Road Sweeper
- 3.5-ton Road sweeper
- 3 Side loading Cage Vehicles

On completion of the tender process, the two road sweeper tenders were awarded to Dawson Group as they not only provided the best value for money but also gave assurances that the machines would be delivered with in the required timescales and that training on the vehicles would be complete within the timescales.

The supply of side loading cage tippers was awarded to Enterprise mobility as they were also able to provide reassurance that the vehicle would be delivered in time with the required cages and were able to provide replacement vehicles for times such as servicing and MOT testing.

All of these machines and vehicle were delivered by the 31st March 2026. Both suppliers have given a complete service package for these machines, this includes the 10-weekly inspection of the 15-ton DAF to comply with HGV rules and regulations.

The branding of the road sweepers is currently in progress whilst there is currently no definite date for the branding to be installed the Communications Officer has been working with local companies to design and implement the branding and wrapping of the vehicles.



Staff training

Staff training on the road sweepers was completed on the 1st April 2026 with the two HGV drivers being trained on both the 15-ton and 3.5-ton machine, this included familiarisation of the machines and driver competency.

All staff will undergo a suite of training courses over the coming months including sharps training, manual handling, chapter 8 training and other courses that are deemed beneficial for the service being provided.

Tipping rates

At the time of writing this report only the first two weeks of tipping details are available, as these will be added every two weeks this committee will be kept up to date during the next meetings, for the first two periods the tipping rates were as follows

- Litter (including Bins and picked waste) 15.49 tons
- Sweepers 27.65 tons

The tipping process has continued as with the previous contractor at the Battlefield Waste transfer Station, this also gives staff access to the vehicle washing station on site and ensures that the vehicle can return to the main depot free of waste and detritus. All staff involved in the tipping of waste have received the relevant training from Viola and have the necessary PPE to enter the site safely.

Road Sweeping Areas

Road sweeping has commenced within the Town centre area as well as the main arterial routes. At present the town centre is being swept on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Alongside this the smaller sweeper is also in the Town Centre on the same mornings, and this machine will be focusing on key areas such as the Chester street Bridges before moving on to footpaths and smaller areas across the town.

The road sweepers have so far completed a sweep in the following locations

- Coton Hill

- Ellesmere Road
- Mount Pleasant Road
- Scott Street and Seabury Close Areas of Belle Vue

A plan of working areas and timescales for the road sweepers is currently being worked on and will be shared with members as soon as it ready.

Digging Out of Bins

Staff have been tasked with digging out bins that have an accumulation of waste in them, this is to allow the full bin to be used rather than some of the half bins that were inherited.



By completing this digging out work the amount of waste each bin will be able to accept will increase and in certain areas will have a positive effect on the emptying frequency required for each bin. It is hoped that the initial dig out will only be required once as an attachment on the large sweeper will allow for a sucking pipe to be deployed to these bins in future for any looser waste that may occur.

Litter Picking

Litter picking has begun where time has allowed in residential areas however, at present this is being completed following the completion of the days bin emptying routes and requirements.

Part of the team's remit has been extended from the previous contractor to ensure that when a site is visited to empty a bin the surrounding area is also litter picked at the same time.

Residents and Businesses using street litter bins.

One of the biggest issues the team is currently facing is residents and businesses using the street litter bins to dispose of commercial and residential waste, this is an issue that officers at Shropshire Council are aware of and we are currently awaiting guidance from SC officers regarding solutions for this.

At present staff are instructed to remove the waste but check for any possible evidence as to the waste owner,

Residents and Public Comments

Shrewsbury Town Council have received several compliments from residents and businesses since the team have been set up, including comments such as

"Just to say thank you to the street cleaning team in Shrewsbury. The Town is looking much cleaner. I really appreciate their efforts".

"It just looks cared for again – it was becoming such a mess"

“I just thought I would drop a note to say I have just seen one of your team doing there best to clean up under the bridges in castle foregate, I have to say there is a marked improvement in the area and the whole town since your new team took over the reins”

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the contents of the report are noted.