

## SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

A report by the Head of Operational Services had been submitted to provide an update to the Committee on the recent activity of the NETs, Land and Countryside Services teams for the period from 1 August to 31 October 2018.

Grounds maintenance, grass cutting and herbicide application had been completed for the year and work had begun on winter hedge pruning with shrub bed maintenance due to commence shortly. It was highlighted that the most grounds maintenance enquiries the service received during this period were concerned with shrub beds overhanging on to paths and grass and hedge cutting.

The number of fly tipping and dog fouling enquiries was significantly higher than other cleaner communities enquiries. Discussion took place around fly tipping and whether the increase was due to domestic or commercial waste being left. The Grounds Maintenance Manager who presented the report was not directly involved in dealing with fly tipping but undertook to provide members with this information.

Members also questioned the impact of the reduction in shrub and tree cutting on pathways to once per year and it was advised that if there were health and safety concerns, ad-hoc cuts could be done however routes were planned to be maintained on a yearly cycle.

Staff were continuing with litter picking and street sweeping throughout the winter as part of their routine works. The cleaner communities team had engaged with Keep Scotland Beautiful and the Wrigley Litter Less Campaign which was a worldwide project to reduce litter and affect long-term behaviour change among young people. It was hoped that these types of initiatives would discourage street littering.

The Committee was recommended to note the work carried out by the service and to advise of any areas for further information or investigation.

### Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To note that the Grounds Maintenance Manager would provide ward members with a breakdown on whether the increased fly tipping in the ward was caused by domestic or commercial waste.