

Report on	Chewing Gum Task Force Grant Scheme Funding
Date of Meeting	11 th June 2024
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director: Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Karl McGowan, Waste & Sustainable Development Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on a funding application to the Chewing Gum Grant Scheme.
2.0	Background
2.1	Set up by DEFRA in partnership with DAERA in Northern Ireland, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government, the Chewing Gum Task Force (CGTF) brings together major chewing gum producers (including Mars Wrigley, Perfetti Van Melle and a producer of nicotine replacement therapy gum) in a partnership to remove gum litter from our high streets and to prevent future littering.
2.2	The scheme, administered by independent charity Keep Britain Tidy, sees the chewing gum firms invest up to £10 million over five years to achieve two objectives: cleaning up historic gum staining and changing littering behaviour.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Chewing Gum Task Force Grant Scheme for Year 3 (2024) reopened for applications on the 5 th February for Councils across the UK who wish to clean the gum off the pavements in their local areas and invest in long-term behaviour change to prevent gum from being dropped in the first place.
3.2	Grants of up to £27,500 were available to individual Councils to fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of equipment and/or cleaning materials • Redeployment of existing equipment to other areas • Repair or refurbishment of existing equipment • Cost of new or temporary staff members • Redeploying existing staff members • Training staff members in the use of new equipment • Equipment hire and/or subcontractors, if there is a business case for this • Trials of innovative cleaning equipment or techniques • Trials of innovative new ways to identify areas in need of cleaning

3.3	As part of the scheme, Councils will also benefit from a bespoke chewing gum litter prevention package, including targeted behaviour change signage and advice to encourage people to bin their gum. The bespoke signage is designed to be installed on litter bins, street furniture, etc. in the areas being cleaned.
3.4	An application was submitted (by the deadline of the 28 th March 2024) based on purchasing an additional mobile steam cleaner and funding the wages of a previously funded operative for a further 15 week programme of cleaning.
3.5	<p>On the 20th May 2024 notification was received from the Chewing Gum Task Force that our application has been successful and they are able to offer the full grant to the value of £27,500 (bringing the total funding secured from the scheme over three years to £72,500). The conditions of the funding include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned cleansing work is completed by the 31st October 2024; • Installation of the agreed signage within three days of cleaning; • Commitment to delivering communications at project award, during, and on completion of cleaning using press releases and social media.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: The funding of £27,500 will be spent as follows: 1 No. Mobile Steam Cleaner - £18,500 1 No. Operative Wages - £9,000</p> <p>Human: Works shall be carried out using existing staffing resources.</p> <p>Risk Management: Training will be provided in order to comply with the Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order and the Code of Practice for Safety at Street Works and Road Works.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: None</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: None</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of this report and to approve acceptance of the £27,500 funding offer from the Chewing Gum Task Force Grant Scheme.