

Report on	Chewing Gum Task Force Grant Scheme
Date of Meeting	14th June 2023
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Tony Law, Neighbourhood Operations Manager - North

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on a successful application to the Chewing Gum Grant Scheme.
2.0	Background
2.1	A Chewing Gum Task Force has been set up by DEFRA and the Gum manufacturers, with Keep Britain Tidy as administrator, to award grants to Councils to clean up gum litter staining, alongside behavioural interventions to encourage people to bin their gum.
2.2	The Chewing Gum Task Force brings together some of the country's major chewing gum producers, including Mars Wrigley and Perfetti Van Melle, as well as some producers of nicotine replacement therapy gum. Under the scheme the firms will invest up to £10 million over five years to help reduce chewing gum pollution.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Chewing Gum Task Force Grant Scheme reopened for phase 2 applications on 25 th March 2023 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. In the first year of the scheme, more than £1.7 million has been invested by chewing gum producers.
3.2	Grants of up to £25,000 are available to individual councils to fund street cleansing and/or the purchase of cleaning equipment. As part of the scheme councils will also benefit from a bespoke gum litter prevention package, including targeted behaviour change signage and advice to encourage people to bin their gum.
3.3	An application was submitted (by the deadline of 6 th April 2023) based on employing a additional member of staff to operate the hot water pressure washer acquired last year (which was purchased using £20k obtained from the first round of the funding scheme).
3.4	On 18 th May 2023 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 £25,000 (bringing the total funding secured from the scheme over two years to £45,000)
3.5	As before the conditions of funding include that the initial cleansing work and behaviour change notification/signage must be completed/installed no later than 31 st October 2023.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>Funding of £25k has been obtained however the gross cost of employing an additional operative for 1 year is approx. £27k (excess to be met from salaries and wages budget).</p>
	<p>Human:</p> <p>The operative will be employed on a temporary 1 year contract from 1st September 2023</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>Training for the operative 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	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>None</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>The operative and power washer will be deployed primarily in main town centres.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of this report and approve the acceptance of the £25,000 funding offered from the Chewing Gum Task Force Grant Scheme (phase two).