

Street Cleansing



New ways of working to deliver street cleansing and empty public bins

In place of some of the general street sweepers, SUEZ have introduced 10 new community crews (vehicle, driver and at least 2 operatives) who are tasked to cover different areas. There is an early shift, and a late shift and times vary when the crews arrive in any given area. Three of the community crews are focussed on shop fronts, retail areas and litter bins. This will provide better outcomes in the high footfall areas with a greater level of productivity and capability. The remaining community crew will provide cleaning activities within the estates. The community crews are tasked with all the activities you would expect from a cleansing team such as:

- Cleansing the full extent of the highway, footway or footpath.
- Regular emptying, cleansing and maintenance of litter bins.
- Regular emptying and cleansing of smart bins.
- Keeping gully grids clear of silt and detritus.
- Photographing evidence and reporting any issues on their CORE device, such as damaged street furniture.
- Supporting local community 'clean-up' events.

The crews will also remove:

- Graffiti, fly-posting and illegal signs if easy to remove.
- Fly-tipping encountered if easy to remove.
- Moss and weeds up to the backline of metalled pavements, to ensure that such land is predominantly free of weeds.
- Shopping trolleys and similar items if possible.
- Disposing of drug related items or as directed by the Authorised Officer.
- Any animal/dog fouling and human excrement.

Where things are not easy to deal with, they will be reported for action by one of SUEZ's three Rapid Response teams who also provide dedicated overnight and weekend support. Barrow beat operatives remain in CMK and some town centres.

Litter bins

Litter bins and excess littering should be reported on the council website [MyServices - MyCouncil \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](#) see “Littering and Litter Bins” form. The more reports we get the more we can build up a picture of areas which require additional cleansing or bin emptying. This is what SUEZ refer to as their ‘Smart Sweeping methodology.’

SUEZ’s CORE system reports that over 4,500 litter bins were emptied during the first 5 weeks of the new contract and in the same period there have been 645 collections from the city’s Smart bins. We have 1,000 bins within the city and local parishes. Whilst regimes vary dependent upon location, on average SUEZ have emptied each bin on a fortnightly basis although some will be much more than this. Bins in high footfall areas are being maintained at the same daily regime as under the previous contractor. Reporting of street cleansing functions has now commenced and we will receive a more detailed breakdown of this function’s performance.

The City has been divided into zones for the purpose of litter and detritus cleansing:

- Zone 1+: in Central Milton Keynes;
- Zone 1: High intensity of use (busy public areas) excluding CMK;
- Zone 2: Medium intensity of use (‘everyday’ areas, including most housing areas occupied by people most of the time);
- Zone 3: Low intensity of use (lightly trafficked areas that do not impact upon most people’s lives most of the time);
- Zone 4: Areas with special circumstances – Trunk Roads / High-Speed Routes (situations where issues of health and safety and reasonableness and practicability are dominant considerations when undertaking environmental maintenance work); and
- Housing Land.

SUEZ are tasked with cleansing all the above areas to meet the cleansing standards set out in the table over the page. This is also captured in the Performance Management Framework (PMF).

Zone	Minimum Cleansing Frequency (regardless of Cleanliness standard)
1+ (Central Milton Keynes - CMK)	3 times per Week
1 (e.g., all other town centres, shopping centres, areas where people congregate)	Weekly
2 (e.g., Streets that have high footfall, high density housing, other shopping areas, and/or and educational establishment on them)	Every 4 Weeks, except parks, recreation and sports ground which from April to September, which is Weekly
3a (e.g., everyday areas including most low and medium density areas)	Every 8 Weeks
3b (e.g., rural Roads)	Every 16 Weeks
4 Areas with Special Circumstances (e.g., A5, A422, A509)	<u>Annual:</u> Central reservation and lane 2 <u>Quarterly:</u> Nearside and lane 1 <u>Monthly:</u> Laybys and slip-roads
Housing Land	(as per agreed programme)
Parks, recreation, and sports ground (applies to litter only)	7 Weekly, except April to September which is Weekly

To meet and maintain the overall standards across the city, SUEZ will deploy adequate resources. Currently this is organised as per the table below, undertaking different tasks and covering different geographic areas.

Resource	Total	Driver	Operative
Barrow Operative	7	-	1
Compact sweeper	4	1	-
Community crews	10	1	2
Housing Land team	1	1	1
Rapid Response team	4	1	1
Panel Wash team	2	1	1
Large Mechanical Sweeper	4	1	-

Monitoring

The details of all scheduled tasks are available to MKCC officers, as well as their subsequent completion status, through the near real-time exchange of information with the contractor's management system CORE. The information contained within CORE is not straightforward to view at the moment and SUEZ are currently in the process of liaising with the developers of CORE to provide MKCC with an extract which we can pass to parish and town councils. We are hopeful that the ultimate output of this will be to include on the publicly available GIS system.

Mechanical Sweeping

There are 8 mechanical sweepers deployed on the contract, four compact and four large. The sweepers are operated on a two-shift system. The early shift mechanical sweepers start cleansing Zones 1+ and 1 from 6:00 as required in and around the town centre before moving on to other high intensity roads. The compact sweepers initially cleanse cycle ways, underpasses, streets and Car Parks which fill with parked cars first. This maximises the productivity of street cleansing operations by allowing the sweepers to access channels and kerb lines without being blocked by cars. This allows the Community Crews to focus on other tasks which the sweepers couldn't perform, for example cleansing around street furniture. An additional large mechanical sweeper is deployed with the grid road cleaning team who work on an extended night shift over four days Monday Night to Friday Morning.

Weed Spraying on Hard Surfaces

SUEZ are expected to spray the adopted highway and footways twice in the first contract year and review the application annually. The chemical spraying is provided by the landscape sub-contractor Glendale. The following estates have already had a treatment and the weeds should die back over the next few weeks allowing the cleansing teams to remove the detritus.

Central Milton Keynes	Great Linford	Springfield
Knowlhill	Stantonbury	Campbell Park
Loughton Lodge	Bradville	Furzton
Great Holm	Bancroft	Emerson Valley
Loughton	Bancroft Park	Shenley Wood
Rooksley	Bradwell	Shenley Brook End
Bradwell Common	Bradwell Abbey	Shenley Lodge
Conniburrow	Heelands	Shenley Church End
Downs Barn	Linford Wood	Leadenhall
Winterhill	Neath Hill	Bleak Hall
Oldbrook	Pennyland	Coffee Hall
Downhead Park	Peartree Bridge	Lakes Estate - Bletchley
Fishermead	Eaglestone	Crownhill
Wymbush	Two Mile Ash	