

COMMITTEE : **Housing and Environment** DATE: 13 April 2010

CORPORATE DIRECTOR: Pete Leonard

TITLE OF REPORT: Market Street South – Central Reservation Rose Bed  
Refurbishment.

REPORT No. H&E/10/054

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek approval from the Committee to undertake improvement works on Market Street's central reservation rose beds.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Committee:

- (i) approves the proposed works being taken by Environment Services to remove the rose beds and improve the landscaping on Market Street central reservations.
- (ii) instructs officers to provide an update on the progress / success of the work to the 28<sup>th</sup> September Housing and Environment Committee.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

All cost for this project will be met by existing budget.

This proposal is seen as a 'spend to save initiative' as the current central reservation rose beds are very expensive to maintain.

## **4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT**

This report supports the Community Plan's vision for land use and the environment, namely, for Aberdeen to be a City that protects, enhances and values its environment. It aims to achieve social inclusion, sustainable development and jobs and prosperity by increasing citizen participation and commitment, improving health, improving city cleanliness and achieving sustainable land use. By doing so it supports options 12 and 14 of Aberdeen City's Single Outcome Agreement.

It also links generally to the Council's policy statement, Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking, in terms of its declared intention to be an efficient Council.

## **5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no other implications as regards the report itself.

## **6. REPORT**

### **6.1 Market Street South – Central Reservation Refurbishment.**

Currently, the Central Reservation of Market Street South, between Commercial Quay and Albert Quay, is planted with Floribunda Roses, which are in bloom for approx. 8 weeks per year.

The other 44 weeks of the year the rose bushes act as a litter trap, which makes the area unsightly, and being one of the main routes through Aberdeen and the Site of the Ferry Terminal to the Northern Isles and the entrance to the Main Bus Station, it is often one of the first area viewed by Visitors to the City.

The sight of vast quantities of windblown litter is not only unsightly but also offensive to the large volumes of pedestrian and vehicular traffic to the street.

To keep the area clear of litter requires at least a once weekly clean and even then, this may not be enough, depending on the weather conditions, to prevent the litter gathering.

Clearance of the litter, however often it requires to be done, is extremely costly and disruptive to the fact that the traffic lanes at either side of the Central Reservation have to be coned off to ensure the safety of the workers who carry out the work.

Work will be undertaken to refurbish the Central Reservation on the above stretch of Market Street South by carrying out the following works -

- Remove all of the roses
- Leave the existing trees
- Remove approx 4" of top soil
- Cover the area with a membrane to prevent or control weed growth
- Cover the membrane with granite chips.
- Plant a few upright plants, such as phormium, through the granite chips, to give height and colour.

The work will be undertaken early on a Sunday morning to minimize any disruption to traffic.

This proposal would mean that the area would not be constantly covered in litter and would therefore enhance the look of the area. It would also reduce, drastically, the maintenance required.

The section of Central Reservation, on Market Street South, from Albert Quay to North Esplanade East should also be refurbished at a later date, but the urgency is not so high, as there is only a small amount of roses in this section.

## **7.REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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## **8.BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None