



Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board

Date: 10th September 2012

Subject: Grounds Maintenance Contract

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. At its meeting in June 2012, the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board acknowledged a request for Scrutiny made by Councillor Wadsworth in relation to the new grounds maintenance contract. The Board therefore agreed to hold a working group meeting to discuss progress with the new contract.
2. This working group meeting took place on 1st August 2012 and involved representatives from Continental (the Contractor); Environmental Services; the ALMOs; Locality Managers; Parks and Countryside and also the Executive Board Member for Environment.
3. Attached to this report is a summary note of this working group meeting. In consideration of this, the Scrutiny Board is asked to determine what, if any, further work it wishes to undertake in relation to the grounds maintenance contract.

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to consider the attached summary note of the working group meeting held on 1st August 2012 and to determine what, if any, further work it wishes to undertake in relation to the grounds maintenance contract.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To present the summary note of the working group meeting held on 1st August 2012 in relation to the grounds maintenance contract. In consideration of this, the Scrutiny Board is asked to determine what, if any, further work it wishes to undertake in relation to the grounds maintenance contract.

2 Background information

- 2.1 At its meeting in June 2012, the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board acknowledged a request for Scrutiny made by Councillor Wadsworth in relation to the new grounds maintenance contract. This referred to the initial delivery of service standards and more specifically around the maintenance of grass around street furniture and sheltered housing areas; dealing with grass arisings; and communication links with Elected Members and the public. The Scrutiny Board therefore agreed to hold a working group meeting to discuss progress with the contract.
- 2.2 This working group meeting took place on 1st August 2012. The main aim of this meeting was to discuss the key issues that had arisen during the initial stages of contract delivery, the reasons for these and any actions taken to help address such issues in the future.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The main issues raised during the working group meeting are set out within the attached summary note for the consideration of the full Scrutiny Board.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 All members of the Scrutiny Board were invited to take part in the working group meeting. Councillor Wadsworth was also invited to explain why he had brought this matter to the attention of the Scrutiny Board. The meeting also involved representatives from Continental (the Contractor); Environmental Services; the ALMOs; Locality Managers; Parks and Countryside and the Executive Board Member for Environment.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The Scrutiny Board notes that within the Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification, there is a dedicated section in relation to equality and diversity and the expectations placed upon the Contractor to comply with the Equality Act 2010.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 There is a need for high quality horticultural maintenance throughout the city which the new grounds maintenance contract aims to deliver. This links in with the 'Best City.....for communities' priority in terms of ensuring that local neighbourhoods are clean. It also links in with the 'Best City.....to live' priority in terms of improving the percentage of people satisfied with the quality of the environment.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 Reference is made within the attached summary note to the importance of delivering a grounds maintenance service which meets the needs of local residents but which also provides value for money.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 This section is not relevant to this report.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Following a request for Scrutiny to consider the new grounds maintenance contract, a working group meeting was held on 1st August 2012 to discuss progress with the new contract. A summary note of the key issues raised during this meeting is attached to this report for the consideration of the full Scrutiny Board.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are asked to consider the attached summary note of the working group meeting held on 1st August 2012 and to determine what, if any, further work it wishes to undertake in relation to the grounds maintenance contract.

7 Background documents¹

None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.