

**Report of: Chief Officer Parks and Countryside**

**Report to: Outer North West Community Committee**

**Report author: Simon Frosdick**

**Date 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**To note**

## **Title: Streetscene Grounds Maintenance**

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### **Purpose of report**

1. This report sets out the progress made in responding to the recommendations arising from the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board review on the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract.
2. It seeks to inform the Community Committee of the latest position with regards to the contract arrangements

### **Main issues**

3. The contract with Continental Landscapes commenced on 1st January 2012 for a period of 5 years (to 31st December 2016), with an option to extend for up to 5 further years (to 31st December 2021). This followed an extensive procurement process involving what were then 5 budget holding clients including ALMOs, BITMO and Highways.
4. The management of the contract was transferred to Parks and Countryside from August 2012. Subsequently from April 2013 Parks and Countryside took on all management and monitoring activities with respect to the contract (along with tree works, enquiries and inspections) ahead of ALMO reintegration into Housing Leeds. In addition, the budget for scheduled horticultural activities and trees on existing highway verges was vired across to Parks and Countryside with effect from the same date.

5. In preparation for the 2013 season some changes were made to the frequency of visits. The frequency of amenity grass cuts was increased to 14 (28 on premium amenity grass areas), and the number of shrub maintenance visits was increased from 2 to 4 visits (3 'light touch' visits during summer and 1 major prune in winter). In general the 2013 season was significantly better than that experienced the previous year assisted by favorable weather in addition to the changes in frequency.
6. Attached to this report is the report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development to the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 that sets out responses to the issues raised by the scrutiny review

## **Recommendations**

8. The Outer North West Community Committee is recommended note the contents of the report and of the update provided to the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board on the management of the Streetscene Grounds Maintenance contract.

## **Background information**

- Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development to the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014