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**Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

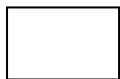
**Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

**Subject: Procurement of the Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2011 – Draft Interim Statement**

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**Electoral Wards Affected: All**



Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Grounds maintenance continues to be an area of priority for Scrutiny and in June 2009 it was brought to the Board's attention that the procurement process for the new grounds maintenance contract in 2011 had commenced.
- 1.2 The Board agreed to establish a working group to oversee the procurement process for the new contract, ensuring that recommendations from the earlier Scrutiny inquiry in 2005 had been taken forward and lessons learned from the existing contract was also being reflected in the new specification.
- 1.3 The working group has now held 4 meetings and considered evidence from representatives from Environment and Neighbourhoods, the four client groups (3 ALMOs and Highway Services) and representatives from local Parish and Town Councils.
- 1.4 At this stage of the procurement process, it was considered appropriate for the Board to produce an interim Statement setting out its initial findings and recommendations for the attention of the Executive Board and Grounds Maintenance Project Board.
- 1.5 The Board's draft interim Statement will follow and be made available prior to the meeting for the Board's consideration.
- 1.6 Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 16.3 states that "where a Scrutiny Board is considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director(s) prior to finalising its recommendations. The Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing any such advice. The

detail of that advice shall be reported to the Scrutiny Board and considered before the Statement is finalised”.

- 1.7 Any advice received will be reported at the Board’s meeting for consideration, before the Board finalises its statement.
- 1.8 Once the Board publishes its final statement, the appropriate Director(s) will be asked to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board’s recommendations within three months.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider and agree the Board’s interim Statement on the procurement of the new Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2011.

### Background Papers

None