



Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board

Date: 22nd October 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. In August 2012, the Scrutiny Board held a working group meeting regarding the Council's grounds maintenance contract. A summary note of the key issues raised during this working group meeting was reported to the full Board at its September meeting. The Board agreed that further work was needed to address the key issues raised by the working group in August. A second working group meeting was therefore to be scheduled to scope terms of reference for this piece of work.
2. This second working group meeting was held on 2nd October 2012. However, following the discussion held during this meeting, the working group felt that the Scrutiny Board was in a position to report on its findings and recommendations.
3. A summary note of the working group meeting held on 2nd October 2012 is attached for the Board's information. Following this working group meeting, it is now proposed that a draft final report of the Scrutiny Board is brought to the next meeting on 12th November 2012 for formal consideration and approval.

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to note the attached summary note and schedule the Board's draft final report for consideration at its next meeting on 12th November.

Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To present the summary note of the second working group meeting held on 2nd October 2012 in relation to the grounds maintenance contract.

1 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.
- 2.3 A summary note of the key issues raised during this working group meeting was reported to the full Board at its September meeting. The Board agreed that further work was needed to address the key issues raised by the working group in August. A second working group meeting was therefore to be scheduled to scope terms of reference for this piece of work.

2 Main issues

- 3.1 This second working group meeting was held on 2nd October 2012. The original aim of this meeting was to scope terms of reference for further Scrutiny work on the grounds maintenance contract. However, following the discussion held during this meeting, the working group felt that the Scrutiny Board was in a position to report on its findings and recommendations.
- 3.2 A summary note of the working group meeting held on 2nd October 2012 is attached for the Board's information. Following this working group meeting, it is now proposed that a draft final report of the Scrutiny Board is brought to the next meeting on 12th November 2012 for formal consideration and approval.

3 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 All members of the Scrutiny Board were invited to take part in the second working group meeting. This meeting also involved representatives from Environmental Services and Parks and Countryside.

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 The Scrutiny Board recognises 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.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 A summary note of the second working group meeting held on 2nd October 2012 is attached for the Board's information. Following this working group meeting, it is now proposed that a draft final report of the Scrutiny Board is brought to the next meeting on 12th November 2012 for formal consideration and approval.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the attached summary note and schedule the Board's draft final report for consideration at its next meeting on 12th November.

6 Background documents¹

None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.