

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

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Safer and Stronger Communities)**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

**Subject: Scrutiny review of the new grounds maintenance contract – draft report**

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. In taking forward this request, the Scrutiny Board conducted two working group meetings in August and October to review 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. This review has now concluded and the Board is in a position to report on its findings and recommendations resulting from the evidence gathered. The Board's draft report is attached for Members' consideration.
3. Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 13.2 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 report is finalised". Any advice received will be reported at the Board's meeting for consideration, before the Board finalises its report.
4. Once the Board publishes its final report, the appropriate Director(s) will be asked to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations within three months.

## **Recommendations**

5. Members are asked to consider and agree the Board's report following its review of the new grounds maintenance contract.

## **Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

6. None used

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<sup>1</sup> 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.