

OVERVIEW SCRUTINY GROUP – 15TH OCTOBER 2018

Report of the Cabinet

ITEM 07 OVERVIEW SCRUTINY GROUP PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - CABINET RESPONSE

Purpose of Report

To set out the Cabinet's responses to the recommendations of the Group on pre-decision scrutiny items.

Action Requested

To note the Cabinet's responses to the recommendations submitted by the Group on items considered for pre-decision scrutiny.

Policy Context

One of the principles of effective scrutiny, identified by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, is "provide a constructive critical friend challenge to the Executive".

Pre-decision Scrutiny

Since the May meeting of the Group, the Cabinet has considered the following items on which the Group undertook pre-decision scrutiny:

A. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT – OPTIONS FOR DELIVERY FROM JUNE 2020

B. PARTICIPATION IN PILOT SCHEME – 75% BUSINESS RATE RETENTION

Details of the Group's consideration of the items as reported to the Cabinet on the 13th September 2018 are set out in the appendix to this report.

The Chair of the Group, Councillor Capleton, attended the Cabinet's meeting on the 13th September 2018 to present the Group's reports to the Cabinet.

Cabinet Response

The Cabinet considered the Group's reports and acknowledged the work undertaken and the views of the Group. In particular, the Cabinet responded as follows to the reports:

Environmental Services Contract – Options for Delivery from June 2020

The Cabinet adopted the officer recommendations, which the Group had supported.

Participation in Pilot Scheme – 75% Business Rate Retention

The Cabinet adopted the officer recommendations, which the Group had supported.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report:

Financial Implications

None.

Risk Management

No risks have been identified in connection with this report.

Background Papers: None

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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT – OPTIONS FOR DELIVERY FROM JUNE 2020

Recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group

That the Cabinet be informed that the Group supports the recommendations as set out in the report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing.

Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Lead Member for Performance of Major Contracts, the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing and the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate for the Cabinet to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

Meeting Discussion

The Lead Member for Performance of Major Contracts, the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing and the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces attended the meeting to assist with consideration of the item and gave the following responses to issues raised:

- (i) A blended funding approach would be taken to purchase the fleet required and money would be used from the Council's reserve fund and borrowing.
- (ii) The procurement process will capture all the specification requirements for the new vehicles such as the range and size. The vehicles transferred over to the new fleet would be the latest models and have a larger capacity for refuse collection.
- (iii) The Group was advised that the project group had considered alternatives to extending the current contract but it was felt that Serco were providing a good service and they were established in the market so were the best option.

PARTICIPATION IN PILOT SCHEME – 75% BUSINESS RATE RETENTION

Recommendations of the Overview Scrutiny Group

That the Cabinet be informed that the Group supports the recommendations as set out in the report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services.

Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Lead Member for Finance and Property Services and the Strategic Director of Corporate Services on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate for the Cabinet to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

Meeting Discussion

The Lead Member for Finance and Property Services and the Strategic Director of Corporate Services attended the meeting to assist with consideration of the item and gave the following responses to issues raised:

- (i) It was clarified that the Council would still receive at least 95% of its funding under the new scheme but may lose some of the grant funding. This would mean a potential loss but it was felt unlikely that would happen.
- (ii) There were no cost implications to the Council in applying to join the pilot scheme and as a pool arrangement already existed some of the potential issues were already known.