



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

12 March 2018

Environmental Services Re-Provision

Cabinet endorsed the recommendation to award the contract to the preferred bidder, Veolia, at its meeting on 17 January 2018.

Cabinet gave the Director of Customers and Communities delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, to implement Cabinet's decision and to achieve successful completion of the environmental services procurement process.

Letters of intention to award to the preferred bidder were issued on 30 January 2018.

Following the expiry of the Alcatel standstill period at midnight on 9 February 2018, the Director of Customers and Communities is now implementing the required steps leading to final approval of the contract and contract execution.

NBC officers and Veolia's mobilisation team will develop and agree a detailed implementation plan to secure the successful mobilisation of the services.

Parks and Open Spaces

Dallington Park

A safety fence has now been installed around the children's play area at Dallington Park. This has been erected for three main reasons. 1) There is a very steep slope adjacent to the children's play area, which is a hazard to the young children when they are playing. 2) It makes it easier for the parents/carers to keep an eye on their children when they are playing in the enclosed area. 3) No dogs are allowed in this enclosed area, except for guide dogs that are on leads.

Also at Dallington Park, a safety barrier/chicane has been installed at the entrance to the park from Harlestone Road. Concerns were raised by the "Friends Of Group" after a few near misses with dogs running into the path of cars and they were worried that children could also do the same.

The Racecourse

Additional bollards have been installed at the Racecourse, near the Pavilion, to help prevent vehicles from driving onto the grassed areas. There were concerns about the number of vehicles that were entering the Racecourse, adjacent to the children's play area, which gave rise to serious safety concerns for all park users.

Green Flag

Applications have been submitted to enter Delapre Park and Abington Park for the 2018 Green Flag Awards. The judging normally takes place during May/June time. Abington Park will have a full judging assessment and Delapre Park will have a mystery shopper type assessment.

Environmental Health

Northampton Borough Council now has a new Primary Authority (PA) partnership arrangement in place with Carlson Rezidor, the parent company of the Group of Radisson Hotels (to include the Park Inn, Northampton). NBC now acts as a UK lead for the Radisson Hotels in regulating functions such as; Health and Safety, Food Safety and Hygiene and Licensing. The Partnership is set up to increase efficiency, standardisation and create a consistent approach to regulation and aims to remove the burden of 'red tape' and administration. NBC also has other PA partnership arrangements in place with other national companies to include Travis Perkins and Poundland.

The food team completed the prosecution of the Mr Peter Salmon of The Meating Place, a butcher's shop in Northampton for a number of food safety offences. Fines and costs totally £20,323 were levied for these offences. In handing down the above sentence, the bench commented that the offences were, in their opinion, extremely serious and resulted in a serious risk to public health which was thankfully not realised in the end. This, combined with the fact that he had been convicted of similar food safety offences a few years previously, led them to impose a greater fine than their colleagues did on the last occasion.

The new enforcement service commenced on 22 January. The new officers underwent a week long training programme and have now commenced enforcement activities in the centre of Northampton. In the period between 24 January and 26 February 2018, 1250 fixed penalty notices have been issued by the team.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment