

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

TO CABINET 13 JUNE 2018

Report Title	RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RE-PROVISION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT WORKING GROUP
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Agenda Status: PUBLIC

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to notify Cabinet on the outcome of the Scrutiny activity undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group in response to the decision by Cabinet to re-provision the Environmental Services Contract.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends to Cabinet that:

2.1.1 Cabinet considers the findings of the O&S Working as detailed in section 3 of the [Overview and Scrutiny report](#).

2.1.2 Notes that, from the information provided to it, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is satisfied that the right processes have taken place. The processes to date has been robust and carried out with due diligence.

2.1.3 Notes that, from the information received, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is satisfied that the procurement process has been robust.

2.1.4 The Contract Manager is asked to forward details of the Notice of Motion, as set out at paragraph 2.6 of the [Overview and Scrutiny report](#), to both the Council’s contractor and NPH’s contractor for their information; with emphasis that there must be regular liaison with local groups and forums, such as Residents’ Associations and Community Forums.

2.1.5 An alternative platform for public input, such as online information, in addition to Group and Forum meetings, is available.

2.1.6 As part of the contract, the help and support that is available to individuals and groups that want to undertake clean ups around the town is widely promoted.

2.1.7 A Working Group is set up to monitor the purchasing of the vehicles and equipment to ensure they are value for money.

3. Background and Issues

3.1 The purpose of the O&S Working Group was to:

- Help non-Executives understand the re provision process and the legal framework around the re-provision of the contract.
- Enable non-Executives to meaningfully challenge the rigour and robustness of the process.

3.2 Two non-Executive Councillors called in the decision of Cabinet of 16 November 2016, (item 11 – Re-Provision of the Environmental Services Contract). A Call-In Hearing was held on 29 November 2016. During the deliberation session, the Overview and Committee concluded that there was a need for wider consultation, the recommendations were ill-informed, based on assumptions regarding costs, before quality; the areas of methodology used were flawed; and the contracting out option had been based on a failing contract. The Committee further concluded that there was a need for Overview and Scrutiny involvement at the relevant stages of the process.

3.3 The Chair advised of the information received and asked the Committee to consider whether the Call-In would be upheld or not.

3.4 Upon a majority vote it was resolved that:

(1) That after all the evidence had been heard that the Call-In be accepted on the grounds that:

- (i) there is the need for wider consultation;
- (ii) the recommendations were ill-informed, based on assumptions regarding costs, before quality;
- (iii) the areas of methodology used were flawed;
- (iv) the contracting out option had been based on a failing contract.

(2) That there is Overview and Scrutiny involvement in the relevant stages of the process.

3.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee then convened a Working Group comprising Councillor Dennis Meredith (Chair), Councillor Rufia Ashraf (Deputy Chair); Councillors Aziz, Janice Duffy, Terrie Eales, Jamie Lane, Brian Sargeant, Zoe Smith and Graham Walker to carry out this Scrutiny activity.

3.6 This Scrutiny activity links to the Council's corporate priorities, particularly corporate priority - Working Hard and Spending your Money Wisely (Delivering quality modern services) and Protecting Our Environment (A clean and attractive town for residents and visitors).

- 3.7 A series of meetings were held that provided key information to the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group. An interim report was submitted to Cabinet at its meeting of 18 October 2018.
- 3.8 The purpose of the meetings was to:
- Help non-Executives understand the complex procurement process that was being followed.
 - Enable non-Executives to meaningfully challenge the rigour and robustness of the proposed process.
- 3.9 In considering the evidence the following findings from the Scrutiny activity were made: -
- 3.10 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomed the comprehensive presentation given to the O&S Working Group its inaugural meeting and supported the feedback and progress.
- 3.11 From the information received, the O&S Working Group is satisfied that the right processes have taken place. The processes to date has been robust and carried out with due diligence.
- 3.12 From the information provided to it, the O&S Working Group gives its support for the robustness of the procurement process followed.
- 3.13 In considering the notice of motion at its February 2018 meeting the Working Group concluded that there is a need for more public consultation on the environmental services contract with local groups and forums. It was noted that the new contractor will have an Engagement Manager and an Engagement Officer who will attend a number of groups and forum meetings as part of their roles. £25,000 will be set aside for community engagement projects.
- 3.14 Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) will have its own contractor for housing land.
- 3.15 The Working Group felt that it would be important for both the contract manager for the new environmental services contract and the contract manager for the contract on NPH land to have sight of the Notice of Motion and for there to be regular liaison with local groups and forums, such as Residents' Associations and Community Forums.
- 3.16 Whilst recognising the importance of meetings such as Residents' Associations and An alternative platform for public input, such as online information, in addition to Group and Forum meetings, is available."
- 3.17 It is acknowledge that the contract has provision for help and support being made available to individuals and groups that want to undertake clean ups around the town; the Working Group emphasises the importance of the promotion of the availability of this support.
- 3.18 The Working Group supported the meeting that took place, in February 2018, hosted by the Cabinet Member (Environment) and the Director for Customers and Communities that

had been open to all Councillors to attend to put forward any comments, queries or concerns that they had regarding the contract.

4. Options

- 4.1 Cabinet will need to consider the possible options as part of its response to the recommendations.

5. Implications (including financial implications)

5.1 Policy

- 5.1.1 The work of Overview and Scrutiny plays a major part in the development of the Council's policy framework through its work programme.
- 5.1.2 The report and its recommendations have policy implications in relation to the re-provision of the environmental services contract. Cabinet's response will need to consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in detail.

5.2 Resources and Risk

- 5.2.1 There are no resourcing issues for the recommendations made due to the fact that this is an interim report notifying Cabinet of the findings of the Scrutiny activity so far.

5.3 Legal

- 5.3.1 There are no legal issues to be considered as part Cabinet's response to the recommendations made due to the fact that this is an interim report notifying Cabinet of the findings of the Scrutiny activity so far.

5.4 Equality

- 5.4.1 Equality issues will need to be considered as part of Cabinet's response to the recommendations.

5.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

- 5.5.1 The O&S Working Group received evidence and information at a series of meetings as detailed in paragraph 3.7 of this report.

6. Background Papers

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee report (25 September 2017) – Interim Report of the O&S Re-Provision of the Environmental Services Contract Working Group
- Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 25 September 2017
- Overview and Scrutiny report of the O&S Re-Provision of the Environmental

Services Contract Working Group (April 2018)

- Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 30 April 2018

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