
TITLE: UPDATE ON PROGRESS TOWARDS BRINGING WASTE SERVICES UNDER COUNCIL CONTROL

Committee: Regulatory Services Committee

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[S68]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 Update on progress towards bringing waste services under Council control.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Members are requested to note the progress made to date towards bringing waste services under Council control.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 The Council currently delivers waste collection and cleansing services through a contract with Veolia.

3.2 The initial contract term was seven years from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2015, and was extendable by up to four further years.

3.3 A three year extension period to 31 March 2018 was agreed by this Committee at its meeting of 1 July 2014.

3.4 At its meeting of 6th February 2017 this Committee agreed that the final year extension option of Veolia's contract should not be sought and that the Council should move to direct provision of services from 1st April 2018. This recommendation was endorsed by Full Council at its meeting of 23 February 2017.

3.5 This option was considered to give greater control over the provision of services, and more flexibility to modify services if opportunities for improvements to services become available.

3.6 A Waste and Street Cleansing Project board ('the Board') has been established to oversee the transfer process. The Waste and Street Cleansing Board meets the first week of every month. The purpose of the Board is to oversee and direct the project.

3.7 Roles and Responsibility of the Board:

- To receive and agree the project plan (Inc. Gantt chart), risk register, and stakeholder plan; and thereafter any amendments to the key project documentation before referral to Members if required.
- To receive monthly projects reports to monitor progress against the key project documentation and agreeing remedial actions and revisions to the Gantt chart as required.
- To receive and agree subject matter specific reports required by the project plan, before referral to Members if required.
- To have oversight of the resourcing of the project and the performance of the project team, taking any remedial actions required.
- To receive and agree alterations of the business case for the in sourcing of the services to ensure alignment with the MTFs of the Council.

3.8 Good progress has been made to date, including the confirmation of governance arrangements and project plan detail, with key dates for decision making.

3.9 Stakeholder Communication Plan has been drafted. The purpose of the communication plan is to ensure the Project Team provides relevant, accurate, and consistent project information to project stakeholders and other audiences.

3.10 Replacement refuse vehicles have been procured and the specification for the replacement cleansing vehicles has been drafted.

3.11 Confirmation of service configuration and confirmation of budget envelope for service delivery following transfer.

3.12 Regulars staff forums have been taking place with representatives from the Council and Veolia staff. The meetings have been very positive and productive. Issues discussed include depot improvements, uniforms, protective clothing and health and safety issues and alternative approaches to cleansing. A newsletter is produced regularly which reports on the outcome of the staff forums.

3.13 Draft updated service standard documents have been produced. Topics include recycling, bulk collections and cleansing standards.

3.14 A survey has been carried out on low recycling participation rates and as a result an action plan has been produced.

3.15 Preparations have commenced for the TUPE transfer of Veolia staff required for the service handover. This includes engagement with representatives of the GMB union, which represents some of the workforce.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The waste transfer project is on target to achieve the April 2018 deadline.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 Financial implications of directly running services have been considered in previous reports. There are no financial implications to this report, which is for information only to advise of progress towards transfer.

5.2 No changes are proposed to the delivery of services, therefore, an Equalities Impact assessment is not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 ECDC Waste Project Gantt Chart 28 June 2017

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
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