

**CABINET
15TH JULY 2014**

**DIRECTORATE OF
COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND
ENVIRONMENT'S REPORT NO. DCE1408**

FUTURE CONTRACTS – MEMBER WORKING GROUP

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose a Future Contracts Working Group, appointed by the Cabinet to guide the evaluation of future options to deliver frontline services post March 2017. The services affected will be waste collection, recycling, street cleansing, grounds maintenance and toilet cleaning.
- 1.2 Once a formal decision has been made regarding which service delivery option to take forward, it is proposed that the group continues to meet as the Council moves towards the implementation of the new service.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's contract with Veolia to deliver the above services is due to expire in March 2017. Since early 2013, in conjunction with the Cabinet and specifically the Environment Portfolio Holder, Officers have been developing options to continue delivering these services at reduced cost and improved quality of service.
- 2.2 In July last year, Cabinet members were given an overview of the options available to the Council. These options are listed below:
 - Procure a waste, recycling and cleansing contract in partnership with a group of authorities in Surrey. Provide a separate service for grounds maintenance.
 - Enter into a Joint Venture with Norse Commercial Services to provide the whole basket of services above.
 - Procure a waste, recycling and cleansing contract in partnership with Hart District Council and/or Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.
 - With a fall-back position of procuring a new contract alone.
- 2.3 In January 2014, the Cabinet agreed funding to support Rushmoor's continued involvement with the group of Surrey authorities.

2.4 The work with the Surrey group has advanced very quickly and the official notice for the joint contract is due to be published in the European Journal in January or February 2015. It is fundamentally important to the authorities participating in this joint contract that all partners are fully committed to the contract once the advert has been placed. It will create significant problems for partners if an authority withdraws from the arrangement after the notice has been published.

2.5 It is therefore essential for the Council to either fully commit to the joint contract with Surrey partners or fully withdraw by December this year.

3. **MEMBER WORKING GROUP**

3.1 Due to the complex nature of this project, it is proposed that a member working group be established with the key roles to:

- Examine the service delivery options available and recommend which to take forward to implementation
- Monitor and provide input into the development and mobilisation of the chosen service delivery option

3.2 It is proposed that for 2014/15 the group has a core membership of six Members on the basis of 4 Conservatives and 2 minority group Members. The Members should include:

- The Environment and Service Delivery Portfolio Holder
- 1 additional Cabinet Member
- The Chairman of the Environment Policy and Review Panel
- 1 Conservative Group Member
- 2 minority group Members

3.3 In addition to the above, it is important that the group can draw on experience of other elected members. Therefore, it is also proposed that the group can invite participation from other members as required.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no significant financial implications associated with establishing the Member Working Group.

5. **RECOMMENDATION**

5.1 The Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) agree to establish a Member Working Group to steer the options evaluation process with regard to future delivery of the services highlighted in this report;

- (ii) agree that the core membership of this group be as outlined above;
and
- (iii) authorise the Head of Democratic Services to confirm membership of the group in consultation with Group Leaders.

David Quirk
Director of Community and Environment

Contact

James Duggin
Contracts Manager – Community
01252 398167