

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 15 December 2014

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WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Commissioner for Environment and Open Spaces, Cllr Satpal Parmar

PART I **KEY DECISION**

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT SAVINGS

1 Purpose of Report

To inform cabinet of the ways the council could save money on environmental services by making changes to its contract with Amey.

The proposed savings and efficiencies identified are the ones that can be delivered in the short to medium term without major transformation to the services.

2 Recommendations

The Cabinet is requested to resolve that the suggested changes to the Amey contract identified in section 5 of this report be approved.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Corporate Plan

The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) is the document that details the priorities agreed for Slough with partner organisations.

3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

Slough Borough Council has stated through the Sustainable Community Strategy in the Environment and Regeneration section that it will pursue steps to:

- move up the waste hierarchy and increase the amount of waste recycled;
- reduce the overall amount of waste produced; and
- reduce dependency on landfill for final waste disposal.

Furthermore it also states that the council will:

- continue to provide a dedicated scheme to collect green garden waste.

The primary environmental commitment and statement made by the Council through the Slough Sustainable Community Strategy is that the council has set itself the target of recycling 60% of its waste by 2028. This is a core driver behind the Waste Strategy in development and defines the strategic horizon period.

Slough Borough Council has stated through the Sustainable Community Strategy in the Environment and Regeneration section that Slough has made good progress in recent years to improve the local environment and is now one of the cleanest boroughs in the South-East. Furthermore it also states that the council will support and ensure residents can:

- Volunteer for community clean up campaigns; and
- Keep their neighbourhood clean and tidy.

3b. **Cross-Cutting themes**

Residents play an important part in the sustainable management of the borough's waste and the council relies on residents to sort their recycling and residual waste for collection, and to dispose of their waste considerately, especially larger items. Furthermore residents waste disposal habits have implications for the council's budget, and influences the amount of waste sent to landfill, recycled or composted. Therefore, all residents have a civic responsibility to contribute to a cleaner, greener Slough, demonstrating the cross-cutting theme of **Civic responsibility**.

Successful waste management and street cleaning processes will ensure the town is kept tidy and clean, while unsuccessful processes may have inadvertent consequences such as a rise in fly tipping or littering, which damages the image of the town. This relates to the theme of **Improving the image of the town**.

3c. **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

There are no references within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Environmental Services (Waste Collection, Street Cleaning, Grounds Maintenance).

4 **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

The financial implications of the rationalisation of services as set out in Section 5 is reduction in the fixed payments made to Amey by £514,147.18 for financial year 2015/16.

(b) Risk Management

Risk	Mitigating action	Opportunities
Legal	Environmental Protection Action 1990 minimum street cleanliness levels to be adhered to from changing	N/A
Property	Infringing of overgrown hedges onto Public Highway	N/A
Human Rights	N/A	N/A
Health and Safety	Infringing of overgrown hedges onto Public Highway.	The removal of task and finish will slow crews down. Crews going out earlier will reduce traffic congestion.
Employment Issues	Potential redundancies at Amey to be managed by contractor	N/A

Equalities Issues	N/A	N/A
Community Support	N/A	Provision of receptacles for community clear ups to made to all community groups / residents.
Communications	Bins will be collected earlier and this needs to be communicated to residents that are the first to have their bins collected.	Opportunity to inform residents of benefits of new collection times through reduced traffic congestion.
Community Safety	N/A	Earlier start times will mean that there is reduced congestion around some school routes.
Financial	See Section 4 a)	N/A
Timetable for delivery	Financial risk if savings are not made. Reputational risk to residents and businesses from impact of street cleaning and grounds maintenance proposed changes. Consultation with Union(s) required in advance of implementation.	
Project Capacity	To be delivered by Amey. Support for communications provided by SBC.	N/A
Other	N/A	N/A

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are not any Human Rights Act Implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for the completion of an EIA.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 Slough Borough Council is responsible for collection, management and disposal of all household waste generated within the borough. These services are delivered by Amey under the environmental services contract, which runs until November 2017. The contract covers waste collection, waste management, waste disposal, highways, street cleaning and grounds maintenance.
- 5.2 A major review of the contract was conducted in early 2014 to identify savings, the initial remit being to reduce costs by 20%. The proposed changes listed below were suggested during discussions with Amey and amount to about an 8% reduction. A greater reduction would require the need for major changes to services.
- 5.3 Bin men currently start work at 7.30am and are allowed to finish once they have completed their rounds. Reducing the number of bin men and making them work a

fixed day of 6am to 2pm would allow the same number of bins to be collected by fewer men working longer days. It could also help tackle complaints from residents about bins not being put back properly by men who are rushing to complete their rounds. This change could save **£188,000.00**.

- 5.4 **£150,000** could be saved in the street cleaning budget by reducing the number of street cleaning teams and halving the number of trips the mechanical street sweepers make. This would involve them visiting the cleanest streets less often – twice or three times a week, rather than every day.
- 5.5 Slightly reducing the number of times grass is cut from 13 times to 12 times per year, and suspending it during hot/dry weather when the grass grows more slowly, would save **£36,445.42**.
- 5.6 Trimming hedges twice a year in February and September rather than three times in February, June and October would save **£66,156.70**.
- 5.7 Edging flower beds and paths once every two years rather than every year would save **£73,545.06**.
- 5.8 All the proposed changes would reduce fixed payments to Amey by **£514,147.18** for 2015/16.

6 Comments of other committees

None

7 Conclusion

Cabinet is requested to resolve the implementation of the proposed service changes to the Amey contract as identified above.

Cabinet should consider which (if any) or all of the options they wish to adopt and the implications of the service changes in the short, medium and long term.

The savings are not linked to proposed service changes currently in development through the waste strategy.

8 Background Papers

None