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GOSPORT
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28 February 2022

S U M M O N S

MEETING: Community Board
DATE: 8 March 2022
TIME: 6.00 pm
PLACE: Council Chamber
Democratic Services contact: Linda Coote

PAUL GRANT
BOROUGH SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Mayor, Councillor Hook (ex-Officio)
Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board, Councillor Burgess (ex-Officio)

Councillor Raffaelli (Chairman)

Councillor Bateman
Councillor Beavis
Councillor Blackman
Councillor Carter
Councillor Earle
Councillor Mrs Furlong

Councillor Hammond
Councillor Hutchison
Councillor Miss Kelly
Councillor Meenaghan
Councillor Westerby

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

(To be read by the Chairman if members of the public are present)

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, please leave the room immediately. Proceed downstairs by way of the main stairs or as directed by GBC staff, follow any of the emergency exit signs. People with disability or mobility issues please identify yourself to GBC staff who will assist in your evacuation of the building.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- If you are in a wheelchair or have difficulty in walking and require access to the Committee Room on the First Floor of the Town Hall for this meeting, assistance can be provided by Town Hall staff on request.

If you require any of the services detailed above please ring the Direct Line for the Democratic Services Officer listed on the Summons (first page).

NOTE:

- i. Councillors are requested to note that, if any Councillor who is not a Member of the Board wishes to speak at the Board meeting, then the Borough Solicitor is required to receive not less than 24 hours prior notice in writing or electronically and such notice shall indicate the agenda item or items on which the member wishes to speak.
- ii. Please note that mobile phones should be switched off or switched to silent for the duration of the meeting.
- iii. This meeting may be filmed or otherwise recorded. By attending this meeting, you are consenting to any broadcast of your image and being recorded.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for non-attendance**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

All Members are required to disclose at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter, any disclosable pecuniary interest or personal interest in any item(s) being considered at this meeting.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting of the Community Board held on 5 January 2022** (Pages 5 - 8)

4. **Deputations - Standing Order 3.4**

(NOTE: The Board is required to receive a deputation(s) on a matter which is before the meeting of the Board provided that notice of the intended deputation and its object shall have been received by the Borough Solicitor by 12 noon on Friday 4th March 2022. The total time for deputations in favour and against a proposal shall not exceed 10 minutes).

5. **Public Questions - Standing Order 3.5**

(NOTE: The Board is required to allow a total of 15 minutes for questions from Members of the public on matters within the terms of reference of the Board provided that notice of such Question(s) shall have been submitted to the Borough Solicitor by 12 noon on Friday 4th March 2022).

6. **Review of Streetscene Grounds Maintenance Service.** (Pages 9 - 16)

To provide the Board with an overview on the performance of the Direct Service Organisation (DSO) following the decision to bring the service in house.

7. **Any Other Items**

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Community Board
5 January 2022

A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD WAS HELD ON 5 JANUARY 2022

Councillors Raffaelli, Beavis, Earle, Mrs Furlong, Miss Kelly, Meenaghan and Westerby

106. APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

There were no apologies and reduced numbers

107. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

108. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD HELD 3 NOVEMBER 2021

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2021 be signed as a true and correct record.

109. DEPUTATIONS - STANDING ORDER 3.4

There were none

110. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - STANDING ORDER 3.5

There were none

111. ELECTRIC CHARGING POINTS

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Streetscene summarizing the Council's position regarding the installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP) in public car parks and Council property.

Members were advised that since publication of the report the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles had extended grants to car park schemes, if they are near to residential areas.

In answer to a question, Members were advised that market forces drive the positioning of the initial locations, as they need to be in the busiest and therefore the most profitable car parks. If other locations become more commercially viable then they would indeed be considered.

Members were pleased that it was Green Lane in Hardway that would be on the list for an EVCP, as the type of housing in that area makes it difficult to park on street, and the visiting yachtsmen could make use of the facility.

The Chairman advised that suggestions from Members would form part of the discussions with potential suppliers.

Members were advised that the scale of charges would be visible before the contract was agreed. Any changes to those charges would be down to market forces which should help control and minimise increases as users would be familiar with charges in other areas.

It was explained that a 15 year contract made the scheme commercially viable and would assist the supplier in re-couping the substantial investment necessary. Contracts would be called off from existing frameworks such as the Hampshire based or ESPO. Companies on these frameworks would have already completed due diligence, and our own procurement system would ensure best value for money

It was pointed out that there are three potential options for EVCPs, those provided by commercial organisations such as supermarkets and garages, the off road parking type that this report covers and the on road option which would be under the remit of Hampshire County Council who may not see Gosport as a priority. The grants that have only just become available cover installation, but Gosport Borough Council would have to bear the maintenance costs.

Members were advised that the car parks would be redesigned to provide large parking bays with charging points, and road markings to inform that they are for electric vehicles only. Each car park would have 2 or 4 bays to hopefully ensure an available charging point. Any non electric car found to be parked in these bays would be dealt with by enforcement. The electric vehicle would still have to pay the parking charge or be in possession of a permit.

Members were reminded that the Local Plan is still waiting to be approved by the inspectorate and once approved will run until 2038. The plan is for Gosport Borough Council to mandate future new builds to provide a certain amount of points.

In answer to a Members question, Officers advised that in the context of a fully funded business model, the costs of supply installation and maintenance would be born by the contractor, and was the most likely but not only option. The Council would be responsible for updating the car parks and their signage and rewriting the parking SPD. Enforcement would be responsible for policing it.

Members voiced concerns about the danger of trailing cables on paths and pavements and all agreed that this was a Hampshire issue of Health & Safety.

Members wished to thank Officers for the work involved in producing the report, and felt that a company running the scheme on behalf of the Council was preferable as even with Government grants there would still need to be substantial investment by the Council with no guarantee of profit, as even Hampshire were finding issues with the profitability of their charging points.

RESOLVED: that the Board:

- Noted the information provided in the report
- Delegated authority to the Head of Streetscene to procure and contract an EVCP supplier or suppliers to install and manage EVCOs in Council owned car parks and on Council owned property.

112. JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Streetscene seeking approval for the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) produced by Project Integra (PI) of which the Council is a member.

There were no updates from Officers.

Members were advised that although there was nothing hard and fast until the new Government strategy was released, it was very likely that the new routine would involve an additional wheeled bin, as sacks/bags had been prohibited by the Health & Safety Executive due the number of accidents and incidents caused through the lifting of heavy bags. It was still undecided if there would be kerbside sorting or not, as Hampshire are moving away from kerbside sorting due to the logistics and problems of blocking narrow streets and slowing traffic.

Members were advised that Gosport, whilst being within the top 25% for low waste creation, was bad at cross contamination.

The Chairman advised that approving the strategy put Gosport in a good position, allowing decisions to be made, in conjunction with other unitaries and County once the Government strategy becomes available. There is a lot of work to do, starting with reduction in waste production, and then finding solutions to the particular problems of collections from Gosports narrow streets, terraced houses and back alleys.

Members welcomed the potential increase in recycling in the Borough and felt that there may have to be an acceptance of the inconvenience the additional collections caused.

RESOLVED: That the Board approved the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS)

113. ANY OTHER ITEMS

CHAIRMAN

Concluded at 6.32 pm

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Board/Committee:	Community Board
Date of meeting:	Tuesday 8 th March 2022
Title:	Review of Streetscene Grounds Maintenance Service
Author:	Head of Streetscene
Status:	FOR DECISION

Purpose

To provide the Board with an overview on the performance of the Direct Service Organisation (DSO) following the decision to bring the service in house.

Recommendation

That the Board notes the overview and approves a full review in due course of the strategic direction of the service and associated, operational and staffing adjustments to further enhance service delivery.

1. Background

- 1.1 Since 1st April 2011 to March 31st 2021, the grounds maintenance service was delivered by Sodexo Horticultural Services through a partnership contract. The contract award was for an initial 10 year period with an option to extend by a further 5 years upon board approval.
- 1.2 On 22nd January 2020 the Community Board approved not to extend Sodexo's contract and to form a Streetscene Direct Services Organisation (DSO) for the delivery of the Councils grounds maintenance service.
- 1.3 Two months prior to the end of Sodexo's 10 year contract Tivoli Grounds Maintenance Services acquired Sodexo Horticultural Services. Tivoli Grounds Maintenance Services continued to deliver the grounds maintenance service until 31st March 2021 when the contract came to an end.
- 1.4 All staff previously employed by Tivoli on the grounds maintenance contract were transferred to Gosport Borough Council under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE).
- 1.5 The Council made significant investment in purchasing new plant and equipment along with the leasing of new vehicles.
- 1.6 A key objective to ensuring a smooth transition of services from Tivoli to Streetscene was to ensure that all transferring staff were fully trained in health and safety, safe systems of work, risk assessments and machinery operations. This forward planning ensured that all operatives were out delivering services across the Borough by mid-morning on the day of transfer.
- 1.7 Overall, disruption to works schedules due to the mobilisation of the Streetscene Operations Team was minimal. Those operatives who transferred have embraced the need to mobilise quickly and adapted well to the change in their new working environment.

2 Report

2.1 Since 1st April 2021 the Council has primarily been operating the grounds maintenance service using existing work schedules from the contract. These are and continue to be adjusted as the service evolves and are monitored daily by the Streetscene Operations Manager and Supervisors to ensure there is minimal delay in reaching scheduled targets with minimum disruption where possible. Any initial delays or short falls that are identified may be rectified initially through staff working additional hours. There will also be ongoing reviews of plant and equipment to help reduce time spent on scheduled tasks which will enable and increase future development and improvements works across the Borough.

2.2 The overall performance has already improved with a notable increase in customer satisfaction and a reduction in complaints. Many members of public and Councillors have commented on increased performance and new initiatives including re-wilding schemes and tree planting across the Borough. Increased engagement with sports clubs and friends groups has also been encouraging with positive feedback.

2.3 The following graphs are derived from works schedule data. Work schedules are produced monthly for all scheduled tasks, based on a 20 day working schedule. Each Supervisor records the daily completed progress against the schedule. At the end of each month the data is analysed by the Operations Manager. Column 3 of the graph shows whether the schedule was completed on time, ahead of scheduled time or behind schedule. Where there is a minus shown, this indicates all work was completed ahead of schedule and the number of days. All other numbers suggest additional days that were required to complete the monthly schedule. The impact of the weather will always have a knock-on effect upon performance, as will public holidays.

2.3.1

West Grass Cutting (Verges) V's Schedule				
Month	Year	Plus / Minus Days	Wet Days	Public Holiday
April	2021	-3	2	2
May	2021	2	19	2
June	2021	2	13	
July	2021	3	15	
August	2021	4	9	1
September	2021	3	10	
October	2021	-2	15	
November	2021	0	14	
December	2021	0	19	2
January	2022	-7	11	1

Total

2

127

8

2.3.2

East Grass Cutting (Verges) V's Schedule				
Month	Year	Plus / Minus Days	Wet Days	Public Holiday
April	2021	0	2	2
May	2021	3	19	2
June	2021	2	13	
July	2021	3	15	
August	2021	6	9	1
September	2021	4	10	
October	2021	3	15	
November	2021	1	14	
December	2021	-7	19	2
January	2022	No grass cut	11	1

Total **15** **127** **8**

2.3.3

East & West Parks & Open Spaces V's Schedule				
Month	Year	Plus / Minus Days	Wet Days	Public Holiday
April	2021	-1	2	2
May	2021	1	19	2
June	2021	1	13	
July	2021	-3	15	
August	2021	-4	9	1
September	2021	2	10	
October	2021	2	15	
November	2021	-1	14	
December	2021	No grass cutting	19	2
January	2022	No grass cutting	11	1

Total **-3** **127** **8**

2.3.4

East Shrub Bed Maintenance V's Schedule				
Month	Year	Plus / Minus Days	Wet Days	Public Holiday
April	2021	4	2	2
May	2021	3	19	2
June	2021	2	13	
July	2021	3	15	
August	2021	2	9	1
September	2021	2	10	
October	2021	3	15	
November	2021	1	14	
December	2021	-2	19	2
January	2022	-3	11	1

Total **15** **127** **8**

2.3.5

East Shrub Bed Maintenance V's Schedule				
Month	Year	Plus / Minus Days	Wet Days	Public Holiday
April	2021	2	2	2
May	2021	3	19	2
June	2021	2	13	
July	2021	3	15	
August	2021	2	9	1
September	2021	2	10	
October	2021	2	15	
November	2021	1	14	
December	2021	-2	19	2
January	2022	-3	11	1

Total **12** **127** **8**

2.3.6

West Housing Maintenance V's Schedule				
Month	Year	Plus / Minus Days	Wet Days	Public Holiday
April	2021	2	2	2
May	2021	0	19	2
June	2021	3	13	
July	2021	2	15	
August	2021	1	9	1
September	2021	2	10	
October	2021	2	15	
November	2021	0	14	
December	2021	-2	19	2
January	2022	-3	11	1

Total **7** **127** **8**

2.3.7

East Housing Maintenance V's Schedule				
Month	Year	Plus / Minus Days	Wet Days	Public Holiday
April	2021	1	2	2
May	2021	1	19	2
June	2021	2	13	
July	2021	2	15	
August	2021	0	9	1
September	2021	2	10	
October	2021	1	15	
November	2021	1	14	
December	2021	-4	19	2
January	2022	-3	11	1

Total **3** **127** **8**

performance levels are at a standard that meets our customer needs:

- Operational performance
- Possible restructure/expansion of the work force
- Staff Training
- Plant & Equipment
- Vehicles
- Depot Facilities.
- Recruitment
- Environmental Impact

The review should also look to carry out benchmarking with other direct service organisations within Hampshire.

2.6.1 Compare the DSO's performance levels by comparing current KPI's (Uniform data) to the previous contractor (Tivoli & Sodexo) KPI's.

2.6.2 Review entire DSO staff structure to identify if any labour short falls that may have had a direct impact on customer satisfaction and planned improvements as part of the original strategies. Increased demands on the current structure to carry out additional works that were not part of the original contract has also had an impact on current resource levels and will also be high on the review agenda along with future progression planning.

2.6.3 Look at staff capabilities to identify what additional skills will be required to meet the objectives of the original strategies. Identify the needs of individuals to carry out tasks that require nationally recognised qualification and certification. The average age of the work force is over 50 and there will be a need to introduce new members to the team with the introduction of possible apprentices.

2.6.4 Where plant and equipment was purchased via the procurement portal, some items purchased did not meet with expectation. Hand held, battery powered equipment did not meet the contract requirements commercially and at best some of the equipment would only be used in a domestic environment. Many manufacturers agree that battery powered equipment needs further improvement before it can replace the more conventional petrol driven equipment. Although we very quickly exchanged the battery powered equipment for petrol driven equipment, a detailed review of all current equipment will be required and a close look at any new or proven innovations that may reduce time on scheduled task will need to be considered for future purchase. The environmental impact on future purchases will also need to be considered.

2.6.5 The current fleet of vehicles fit well with in the current staff structure and tail-lifts are a welcome addition. Vehicles will need to be reviewed and in-line with any possible staff structural changes and possible changes as and when the DSO take on more detailed and complex works.

2.6.6 Having a depot more central to the Borough and having better access has been a welcome change in comparison to the Westfield Road Depot. Although budget capital has already been requested

for the next phase to upgrade the long barn and Countryside buildings, the review will need to look at other possible advantages that may be capitalised on by other departments or further upgrades may be required for expansion of other services including a tree surgery department.

2.6.7 It is very important to start with enough labour on day one of any new Grounds Maintenance contract, especially when a contract starts when the grass is rapidly growing. Any delays in employing necessary seasonal staff could have had a significant impact on performance. Seasonal staff recruitment was not possible through GBC due to the complex recruitment process and significant delays would have been unavoidable to ensure labour could start as near as possible to the 1st April. Recruitment of seasonal staff was achieved with the use of Portsmouth City Council Agency as this was considered to be the most cost effective and quick solution. The review will need look at better ways to manage recruitment and possible comparisons to the private industry recruitment process should also be considered. All the current DSO workforce are employed locally giving the added benefit of the local economy.

2.6.8 The environmental impact of fertilisers and chemicals is always considered at the time of purchase and where possible application of both products are reduced to a minimum. Also high on our agenda is how we recycle green waste and where it can be used. The benefits and the impact of rewilding will need to be carefully monitored over the next few years. A review of the services provided by the DSO will be an opportunity to help reduce climate change impacts when carrying out grounds maintenance services.

3.0 Risk Assessment

3.1 Increased pressure on the current DSO resources to undertake additional in-house work will have a negative impact on the day-to-day scheduled service and as a result reduce customer satisfaction.

3.2 The current DSO labour has a varied skill set which include: City & Guilds level 2 horticulturalist, painter and decorator, engineer, metal fabricator and general builder. However, these skills are only limited to a few staff. If skill levels are not increased and should any of the current skilled staff leave their current employment this would not only reduce the DSO capability to carry out skilled tasks but reduce response times to carry out repairs and instalments of new features.

3.3 Plant and equipment has to be selected and tested to ensure it is appropriate for the required task. This carries the risk of purchasing equipment that is not fit for purpose.

4.0 Conclusion

The DSO has now been established and has already improved the grounds maintenance services however, additional opportunities have been identified which would further enhance the service, improving even more of its efficiency and value for money.

Financial Services comments:	None
Legal Services comments:	None
Equality and Diversity:	Grounds maintenance services are universally provided to all residents of Gosport.
Climate Change implications:	None for the purpose of this report.
Crime and Disorder:	None
Service Improvement Plan implications:	Provision of an effective grounds maintenance service across the borough.
Corporate Plan:	To deliver effective services by using a commercial approach to ensure our services deliver what they need to in the most effective way possible, providing value for money.
Risk Assessment:	Refer to paragraph 3 of this report.
Background Papers:	None
Appendices:	None
Report Author/Lead Officer:	Mark Hibbs, Streetscene Operations Manager (5594)