

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL/EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**(WCC/EHDC) JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY**  
**COMMITTEE**

**7 April 2014**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Chairman: Clear – Winchester City Council (P)

Winchester City Council

Pines (P)

McLean (P)

East Hampshire District Council

Branch (P)

Denston (P)

Onslow (P)

Officers in Attendance:

Mrs J Batchelor – Executive Head of Environment & Neighbourhood Quality,  
EHDC

Mr M Bailey – Joint EHDC/WCC Environmental Services Contracts Manager

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1. **MINUTES**

One Member queried whether an all Member presentation would be arranged regarding the Hampshire Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) service provision. Mrs Batchelor advised that the County Council would go out to full public consultation in June and at that stage, it would be for each Council to decide if an all Member briefing was required.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

3. **UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR**  
**GROUND'S MAINTENANCE AND STREET CLEANSING (THE**  
**LANDSCAPE GROUP)**

(Oral Report)

Mrs Batchelor and Mr Bailey gave a presentation updating Members on the current position with regard to the Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing contract with The Landscape Group (TLG).

In summary, the following points were raised:

- The Joint Environment Services Committee had met on 26 March 2014 to consider the Contract. Changes to the service delivery were agreed, together with a revised performance framework.
- The Committee were reminded of the areas of work covered by the streetcare and grounds maintenance contract. In addition, Mrs Batchelor outlined the standards that should be expected to be delivered by the contractor for the different elements of the contract.
- The frequency of work required differed according to whether the area was high or lower profile.
- With regard to Value Engineering, Mrs Batchelor explained that the schedules of work had all been re-examined and a number of changes made in order to make the contract requirements more specific (and consequentially assist contract monitoring). For example, car parks weekly sweep and litter pick had changed to fortnightly in Chesil Street multi-storey car park, Colebrook Street car park and the Ladyplace car park. Abbey Gardens sweep and litter pick had changed from an input (frequency based) requirement to an output basis where the standard of cleanliness was not to fall below a specified level.
- The A3 trunk road sweep had been removed from the contract due to safety and operational reasons and this saving had been reallocated to the revision of schedules and services.
- Mrs Batchelor outlined the strategic performance framework which had been introduced and covered all areas of the service, grounds and streets. This included a system of rectifications; default notices and financial penalties based on monthly performance.

With regard to the way forward, Mrs Batchelor advised that TLG were required to re-programme their work schedules by the end of May 2014. An officer workshop on the new arrangements had been scheduled for 7 May 2014.

Mrs Batchelor advised that a Councillor briefing had been held previously for East Hampshire District Council Members and suggested that one be arranged for Winchester City Councillors. The Committee welcomed this suggestion.

During further discussions, it was suggested that parish councils, the South Downs National Park Authority, Winchester BID, local businesses and the Winchester Litter Picker Group also be invited to the Winchester Councillor briefing. These suggestions were noted for further consideration by relevant officers, but Members were advised it might not be feasible in practice to include everyone within the same meeting.

During discussion about monitoring of litter bin collection, Members suggested that some form of recording system be introduced to enable those monitoring to easily find out when a bin was last emptied. In addition, each bin should include a label indicating which authority it belonged to (for example, parish or district council owned). If it was owned

by the district council, it should also include a label with the 0300 telephone number for reporting any problems. Mrs Batchelor and Mr Bailey requested that Councillors also use this number for reporting any difficulties, rather than contacting officers directly.

RESOLVED:

1. That a Member Briefing on the Environmental Service Contract for Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing be arranged for Winchester City Councillors on Wednesday 9 July 2014 at 6.00pm.

2. That the contents of the presentation, above discussion and suggestions for future action be noted.

4. **UPDATE ON PUBLIC CONVENIENCES CONTRACT (SUPERCLEAN)**  
(Report ES1 refers)

Mr Bailey acknowledged that there had been some difficulties with the standard of cleanliness being delivered. He explained that all the public conveniences would now be steam cleaned which would enable the contract monitoring to better assess to the cleanliness level of on-going regular cleans. In addition, it would allow an assessment to be made of the fabric of the buildings and whether any facilities required refurbishment.

A number of Members expressed dissatisfaction with the standard of cleaning of public conveniences in their Wards and the possibility of some Parish Councils taking over responsibility was also discussed. It was suggested that notices be displayed in public conveniences setting out the frequency of cleaning and a telephone number for any complaints.

Mrs Batchelor advised that the Joint Environmental Services Committee had requested an update on this contract for their May 2014 meeting. In addition, the contract was due for renewal in 2015 so it was possible that, if there remained dissatisfaction with the service, different options could be considered at that time.

Some Members suggested that if the standard of delivery did not improve sufficiently, the relevant Portfolio Holders be held to account. It was noted that this was an option under the Committee's terms of reference, as was referring an issue to the Joint Environment Services Committee or each authority's scrutiny committee.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

5. **RENAMING THE COMMITTEE**

It was suggested that the Committee be renamed to differentiate it from and avoid potential confusion with the Joint Environmental Services Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee be renamed the Winchester City Council/East Hampshire District Council Environmental Services Joint Scrutiny Committee.

6. **DATE AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The dates for future meetings were agreed as follows:

30 June 2014 – 2.00pm  
3 November 2014 – 2.00pm  
9 February 2015 – 2.00pm

It was noted that the June meeting could receive reports back on performance of contracts operated by The Landscape Group and Superclean. The November meeting could receive annual reports on the end of the third year of contract.

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm and concluded at 3.35pm

Chairman