

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Head of Environmental Care Brendan Coleman	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> A17/048	
Wards Affected	All	14 March 2018	
Title	STREET SCENE PARTNERSHIP WITH CORBY BOROUGH COUNCIL		

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ian Jelley

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- a) To update members on the progress and ongoing work around the development of a Shared Street Scene Service between Corby Borough Council (CBC) and Kettering Borough Council (KBC)
- b) To seek agreement for the recommendations from the Joint Working Steering Group (JWSG) in relation to the joint service standards for waste collection and street cleansing as part of the shared service
- c) To note the proposed approach from the Joint Working Steering Group (JWSG) with respect to ground maintenance.

2. BACKGROUND

On 18 October 2017 KBC's Executive resolved that;

- 2.1 A revised Memorandum of Understanding in respect of the shared service be agreed subject to amendments being delegated to the Head of Environmental Care, in consultation with the Head of Democratic and Legal Services.
- 2.2 Leader of KBC, Portfolio holder for Environmental and Strategic Delivery and Leader of the Opposition, be nominated to represent KBC on the shared service Joint Working Steering Group (JWSG)
- 2.3 To facilitate the shared service arrangement, the Executive Committee approved the extension of the existing fleet contract for a further 7 years from September 2020, subject to delegated authority to the Head of Democratic and Legal Services in consultation with the Head of Environmental Care and the Head of Resources.

On 31 October 2017 at the CBC One Corby Policy Committee Members resolved that:

- 2.4 The project implementation plan for the shared service be noted and accepted;

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- 2.5 A revised Memorandum of Understanding in respect of the shared service be agreed;
- 2.6 That CBC's cross party 'Street Scene Working Group' be disbanded and that three members be nominated to represent CBC on the shared service Joint Working Steering Group (JWSG). (Councillors Addison, Pengelly and Watt were subsequently appointed);
- 2.7 That KBC be the host employer with respect to the shared service arrangement;
- 2.8 That KBC act as the principal contracting authority with respect to the shared service arrangement, subject to a satisfactory outcome of the APSE 'Value for Money' review of fleet procurement.

3. GENERAL UPDATE

Following the last Executive Report of 18 October 2017, the JWSG and the Joint Working Project Board (JWPB) have been established with Member/Officer representation from both KBC and CBC and meet on a regular basis, to receive updates and progress on the work of the Joint Working Project Team (JWPT).

Significant further progress also continues to be made by the JWPT on the implementation arrangements for the shared service within each of the key work streams for the project. For information, a brief high level overview update on the activities within each of the workstreams of the JWPT is outlined below.

3.1 Governance (Legal/Finance/Comms)

The MoU has been drafted and amended following legal advice and was signed on 13 March 2018. Initial work has been undertaken on the project plan to determine the activities with reference to the legal activities that need to be undertaken to replace the MoU with a more contractually binding agreement at a relevant point.

Finance officers meet as part of the JWPT on a regular basis and have been working on the development of a joint budget and considering mechanisms for recharging. As a general note, Finance is also a part of each of the individual workstreams.

Regular communication continues to take place with staff at KBC, CBC and Kier (via "Streets Ahead" newsletter/staff sessions/Core Briefs etc). Regular meetings have also been held with Unions across the three organisations. Members receive regular updates via Executive Committee reports and the JWSG (and Members also receive separate briefing notes as required). A regular separate SMT Clinic which considers updates from the JWPT has been established. The JWPT has also identified critical partners both in relation to other District and Borough Councils and Northamptonshire County Council (via

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the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership) as well as key critical contractual partners e.g. agencies and contractors and have instigated regular meetings.

3.2 Staff/HR/TUPE

As part of the regular meetings between KCB/CBC/Kier, we have received initial Employer Liability Information (ELI) which HR and Finance are currently working through. It is our intention to consider the ELI during March, go through a challenge exercise during April and consider any measure implications following this, all of which will be fed through the Communications cycle with partners, staff, unions, JWPB and the JWSG.

The JWPT endorsed by the JWPB and the JWSG have also asked that we develop an enhanced apprenticeship offer and initial meetings have commenced between the JWPT and Kettering Training Services (formerly KBT) to deal with this.

3.3 Fleet

Following the last Executive Committee Meeting of 18 October 2017, work has commenced on progressing the extension of the current fleet contract from September 2020 for a further seven years. Initial consideration for the requirements for fleet for both KBC and CBC is currently taking place. The value for money exercise with APSE has been completed which validates extending the contract.

3.4 IT (infrastructure)

The project team working on IT are currently looking at both the IT infrastructure required at the CBC depot Lamas Road. They are also progressing work around "in-cab technology" which will enable to pass jobs direct from Customer Services to terminals within vehicles enabling real time information to be fed two ways.

3.5 Service Standards/Operational Management

The project team are currently reviewing policies in each of the service areas in order to align Corby and Kettering services. This also involves looking at resource requirements and future plans.

4. **REPORT**

Since October 2017, three meetings of the JWSG have taken place to receive project update(s), discuss/agree recommendations on service standards for waste collection and street cleansing, and to agree the approach for grounds maintenance.

The first of these JWSG meetings on 22nd November 2017 focused on waste collection and street cleansing issues. Members of the JWSG were provided

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with details of the current KBC and CBC baseline for the key service standards and a proposed joint recommendation and associated commentary was recorded.

A summary of the proposed recommendations and decisions reached by the JWSG for each of the key service standards is reproduced in Appendix 1. The report below only covers the recommendations that affect KBC. As an overview the majority of the service standards used are based on KBC's current practices.

4.1 Recommendations from the JWSG that affect KBC:

Recycling and Refuse:

4.1.1 Standardise colour of bins to be used across both authorities.

Recommendation: To change bin colours going forward for all new and replacement bins/properties as follows:

Residual – black (No change to KBC);

Garden- Green (**moving from grey to green for all new/replacement bin properties**);

Recycling – Blue (No change to KBC);

Food waste Bins – Green (n/a to KBC);

Paper Boxes – Red (separate collection to be reviewed, and, if continued as a result of review, there will be no change to KBC).

Decision: Agreed

4.1.2 Bulky waste collection service

Recommendation: Standardised collection charge of £23 for collection of 6 items. Discounted for those on qualifying benefits (No discount based on age).

Decision: Agreed

4.1.3 Operational hours(start and finish times) and working patterns

KBC currently run parts of their service covering weekends, extended hours and seasonal working. The JWSG wanted to consider some broad approaches on future service delivery challenges which would require both a business case appraisal and required staff/management/union consultation and ultimately future discussion at the JWSG prior to any proposed changes.

Recommendation: To consider 4/5/6/7 day operations and longer working days subject to appropriate consultation.

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Decision: Agreed – Sundays to be a non-working day (for Recycling and Refuse only) and working days to end at 8pm subject to that time linking with shift patterns, and business case options, subject to appropriate consultation.

Street Cleansing:

4.1.4 Quick Response/Reactive Team

Recommendation: Further consideration to be made by Project Team on this item.

Decision: Still under review.

4.1.5 Fly tipping clearance timescales

KBC currently clear the majority of fly tips within 24 hours. The intention with the recommendation below is that targets will be set for both 24 and 48 hour clearance to allow us to track on-going service improvements as part of performance reporting.

Recommendation: Clearance within 48 hours of completion of initial investigation.

Decision: Agreed (noting: more complicated investigations may require more time).

Grounds Maintenance:

The second JWSG meetings on 12th December 2017 focused on Grounds Service standards in KBC, and were asked to consider the future service standards/outputs that CBC aspired to.

A summary of the proposed recommendations covering grounds areas and typologies were discussed by the JWSG. A full copy of this summary is reproduced in Appendix 1. The report below only covers the recommendations that affect KBC. As an overview, the majority of the service standards used are based on KBC's current practices; however, any final recommendation will need to consider the cost impact of the proposed changes and this will need to stay within the cost envelope for this service, with any additional costs being met by service efficiencies as a result of joint working.

4.1.6 Rural Verges and Gateways

Corby cut 6 times a year, Kettering cut 2-3 times a year.

Recommendation: KBC to increase frequency of cuts to match Corby. (*NB subject to the proviso in section 4.1.5. above*)

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Decision: Agreed

4.1.7 Subcontracting

Review the use of sub-contractors (currently primarily used by CBC) to determine which services would be brought back in-house and which services make sense to remain sub-contracted out.

Recommendation: To review all sub-contracted services and determine best delivery option with respect to value for money going forward.

Decision: Agreed.

4.1.8 Hours of Operation

Review need for seasonal working arrangements and weekend working.

Recommendation: Review current working arrangements and work up options with costings for further discussion.

Decision: Agreed

5. ISSUES TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

5.1 Financial

As part of the project, officers (including Finance Officers) from both CBC and KBC who are part of the project team will be on an on-going basis feeding back any impacts or observations with reference to financial impact of all/any of the proposals that come forward from the Joint Working Project.

5.2 Legal

Joint delivery arrangements are to be established with CBC via a shared service arrangement under powers provided by s101 of The Local Government Act 1972 or s19 of The Local Government Act 2000.

Legal advice regards governance, TUPE, procurement issues (including fleet) and other work streams will continue to be sought as required in line with the project implementation plan.

6. RECOMMENDATION

Members approve:

- a) That the recommendations of the Joint Working Steering Group on revised service standards for Waste Collection and Street Cleansing be accepted for implementation as part of the future shared service offer;
- b) That the recommendations with respect to Grounds Maintenance be noted as these will be subject to further review and discussion and a report to committee at a later date.

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List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Kettering Borough Council and Corby Borough Council – Joint Service Standards – Waste Collection and Street Cleansing.