

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA

STREETSCENE SCRUTINY PANEL

Date: Wednesday, 5 July 2023

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

Members:

Councillor Miss T G Harper (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs P Hayre (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Ms C Bainbridge
Mrs L E Clubley
J M Englefield
Mrs C L A Hockley
Mrs K Mandry

Deputies: R Bird
P Nother



1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel held on 26 January 2023.

3. Chairman's Announcements

4. Declarations of Interest and Disclosures of Advice or Directions

To receive any declarations of interest from members in accordance with Standing Orders and the Council's Code of Conduct and disclosures of advice or directions received from Group Leaders or Political Groups, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

5. Deputations

To receive any deputations of which notice has been received.

6. Executive Business (Pages 9 - 10)

To consider any item of business dealt with by the Executive since the last meeting of the Panel, that falls under the remit of the Streetscene Portfolio. This will include any decisions taken by individual members during the same time period.

(1) Award of Contract - Corporate Cleaning Services (Pages 11 - 12)

(2) Asset Management Plan for Streetscene 2023-2028 (Pages 13 - 14)

(3) Streetscene Sustainable Pesticide Use (Pages 15 - 16)

7. Opportunities Plan 2023-2027 (Pages 17 - 18)

To receive a presentation providing an overview of the Council's Opportunities Plan and how the Year 1 project proposals relate to the Streetscene Portfolio.

8. Clip and Collect Garden Waste Service Update (Pages 19 - 24)

To receive a report by the Head of Streetscene which will provide Members with an update on the Clip and Collect Garden Waste service.

9. Streetscene Scrutiny Panel Priorities

To provide an opportunity for Members to consider the scrutiny priorities for the Streetscene Panel.



A WANNELL
Chief Executive Officer

Civic Offices
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27 June 2023

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FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel (to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Thursday, 26 January 2023

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Miss T G Harper (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs P Hayre (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Ms C Bainbridge, Mrs L E Clubley, D G Foot, Mrs K Mandry and R Bird (deputising for N R Gregory)

Also Present: Councillor Mrs K K Trott (for item 8)



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor N Gregory.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel held on 06 July 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published the consultation response for the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and highlighted the following points:

Materials in-scope of the DRS include plastic bottles (with lid the attached) and steel and aluminium drinks cans. For all materials, the size in scope is 50ml to 3 litres (no glass included).

The Deposit Management Organisation (DMO) will be responsible for managing the overall operation of the DRS as well as meeting the collection targets set out in regulations. The DMO will be independent, not for profit and a private organisation.

The collections targets will be phased in – 70% in year one, 80% in year two and 90% in year three.

The DMO will have responsibility for setting the deposit amount, abiding by parameters set out in the regulations, including a maximum amount still to be determined.

A network of return points will be established by requiring all retailers selling in-scope containers to host a return point. The retailer will be able to decide whether to take returns through reverse vending machines or a manual takeback service.

Local Authorities and/or waste operators can separate out in-scope drinks containers found in their waste stream and return them to redeem the deposit, providing they meet the required quality standards.

The proposed commencement date for the DRS is 01 October 2025.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS

Councillor R Bird declared a personal interest in item 8 on the agenda as he is a member of the Fareham Society.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

There were no items of Executive Business for the Panel to consider at this meeting.

7. THE COUNCIL'S HERBICIDE TREATMENT PROGRAMME

The Panel received a presentation by the Public Spaces Operations Manager which detailed how fungicides and pesticides are used in the Borough to control plant growth. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

The presentation gave an overview of what pesticides are, the Regulations that cover them, a summary of the type and purpose of pesticides that are used in the Borough, the safe way that pesticides are used and the alternative options available to use in the control of weeds.

The Panel recognised that in recent years, concerns have increased worldwide about the potential environmental and health effects associated with the herbicide Glyphosate. Councillor Bainbridge referenced a petition that is currently running which requests that Fareham Borough Council ban the use of glyphosate across the Borough. The petition has over 1,000 signatures so far.

The Public Spaces Operations Manager explained in detail, the measures that the Council takes to ensure that glyphosate is used safely and provided a comparison to illustrate its effectiveness against alternative methods of treatment. Members were reassured that the Council's use of glyphosate is minimal and well controlled but noted that a number of other Local Authorities have banned its use and adopted other methods to control plant growth. It was suggested that this could be investigated by officers to determine whether there are any viable solutions identified by other Authorities that could be implemented in Fareham.

Members were very supportive of the suggestion put forward in the presentation that a Policy be developed to regulate the Council's use of pesticides and to provide details of the measures being considered to reduce them.

RESOLVED that the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel notes the content of the presentation and recommends that a Pesticide Policy be developed and adopted by the Council.

8. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN MAINTAINING ADOPTED LAND

Councillor R Bird declared a personal interest in this item as he is a member of the Fareham Society.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Mrs K K Trott addressed the Panel on this item.

The Panel received a presentation by the Public Spaces Operations Manager which provided information regarding ways that local community volunteer

groups participate in maintaining Council land. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes as Appendix B.

Members noted that community involvement in maintaining open spaces can have a positive effect in helping to control plant growth without needing to use pesticides. Members further noted that the discussions at items 7 and 8 on the agenda for this meeting were particularly relevant to the Council's commitment to tackle the effects of climate change.

RESOLVED that the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel notes the content of the presentation.

9. STREETSCENE SCRUTINY PANEL PRIORITIES

Members considered the Scrutiny Priorities for the Panel and requested that an update on the garden waste Clip and Collect service be brought to a meeting of the Panel later in the year.

RESOLVED that, having discussed the Scrutiny priorities for the Panel, an update on the garden waste Clip and Collect service be added to the Scrutiny Priorities Plan.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 7.35 pm).

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Streetscene Scrutiny Panel

Date **05 July 2023**

Report of: **Head of Streetscene**

Subject: **EXECUTIVE BUSINESS**

SUMMARY

One of the key functions of this Scrutiny Panel is to hold the Executive Portfolio Holder and Senior Officers to account in the delivery of the service and the Improvement Actions identified in the Council's Corporate Priorities and Corporate Vision.

Members are therefore invited to consider the items of business which fall under the remit of the Streetscene portfolio and have been dealt with by the Executive since the last meeting of the Panel. This also includes any decisions taken by individual Executive Members.

The relevant notices for decisions taken are attached for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members consider the items of Business discharged by the Executive since the last meeting of the Panel and make any comments or raise any questions for clarification.

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2022/23
Decision No.
2429

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 3 April 2023

Portfolio	Streetscene
Subject:	Award of Contract - Corporate Cleaning Services
Report of:	Head of Streetscene
Corporate Priority:	Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council; Strong, safe, inclusive and healthy communities

Purpose:

The report considers the tenders received for the provision of cleaning services for specified Council owned buildings and designated areas of the town centre. The report recommends an award of contract for the services.

The current cleaning contract was initially due to end in April 2023. This contract was awarded in 2016 for five years with the option of a maximum of 2-year extension which has been used.

The contract includes the cleaning of buildings such as, sports pavilions, public conveniences, Portchester Crematorium public areas, multiple Housing sites and the control tower and amenity building at Solent Airport at Daedalus.

An initial invitation to tender (ITT) was issued using the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) on the Crown Commercial Services Building Cleaning Service framework (RM6130). However, the tender submissions received failed to return a tender within the Council's budget limit. Therefore, the existing contract was extended for 6 months to allow a second procurement exercise to be completed.

A second ITT was advertised in January 2023 via the Council's e-tendering solution "Pro-Contract" using the South East Business Portal (SEBP).

Two contractors submitted tenders by the deadline of 03 March 2023. One of the submitted tenders was rejected as it exceeded the published budget cap. The evaluation panel scored the remaining valid tender, which achieved the objective minimum requirements as laid out in the tended documentation.

The new contract will now commence in October 2023 and run for 5 years with a possible 2-year extension option.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees to award the contract to the contractor ranker in 1st position (as set out in the confidential Appendix A to the report) being the best price quality ratio tender received.

Reason:

To provide cleaning services for Fareham Borough Council owned buildings and other site locations for a period of five years, with the option to extend by a further two years.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 3 April 2023

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2022/23
Decision No.
2417

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 March 2023

Portfolio	Streetscene
Subject:	Asset Management Plan for Streetscene 2023 to 2028
Report of:	Head of Streetscene
Corporate Priority:	Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

Purpose:

To agree funding for a five-year programme of essential repairs and maintenance for the Streetscene public buildings and infrastructure.

To continue to provide and maintain a good and safe standard of public toilets, sports pavilions and public spaces infrastructure, Property Services have undertaken a condition survey to identify essential repairs and maintenance required over the five years 2023 to 2028.

The information from the condition survey has been formulated into an Asset Management Plan for the Streetscene property portfolio that identifies the phased capital investment required over the next five years.

The report provides a summary of the essential repairs and maintenance required and an estimated budget figure for the cost of the works.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) agrees the delivery of a five-year Asset Management Plan for the Streetscene public buildings and infrastructure as set out in the Executive Briefing Paper; and
- (b) approves the funding required to complete the works in the Streetscene Asset Management Plan, as detailed in paragraph 25 of the Executive Briefing Paper.

Reason:

To continue to provide and maintain a good and safe standard of the Council's public toilets, sports pavilions and public spaces infrastructure in the Borough.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 6 March 2023

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2023/24
Decision No.
2450

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 5 June 2023

Portfolio	Streetscene
Subject:	Streetscene Sustainable Pesticide Use
Report of:	Head of Streetscene
Corporate Priority:	Protect and enhance the environment

Purpose:

To inform Members of the Executive about the current use of pesticides on public land by the Council's Streetscene team, the legislation controlling pesticide use and what alternative measures other local authorities are currently adopting. This information will be used to inform debate on the Council's use of Glyphosate following the receipt of a petition at the Council Meeting held on 20 April in respect of the use of Glyphosate on Public Land.

On 20 April 2023 the Council received a petition submitted by Councillor Ms C Bainbridge on behalf of Conserving Habitats in Portchester (C.H.I.P), which requested that Fareham Borough Council ensure that, in public areas, it replaces the use of Glyphosate with chemical free weed removal methods, which are better for the environment and pose no risk to humans, wildlife and pets.

A small number of councils have initiated either a partial herbicide ban, or glyphosate ban for general use. However, it appears that all authorities are still using glyphosate to treat invasive species such as Japanese knotweed.

The Council's Streetscene Scrutiny Panel received a presentation on the Council's Pesticide Treatment Programme at the meeting on 26 January 2023. Members of the Panel were very supportive of the suggestion put forward in the presentation that a Policy be developed to regulate the Council's use of pesticides and to provide details of the measures being considered to reduce them.

As the first step in the development of a policy, officers have contacted other local authorities and reviewed recent trials and studies about the use of glyphosate for weed control which indicates this remains the most sustainable option.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive notes the content of the report.

Reason:

To inform a debate on the Council's use of Glyphosate following the receipt of a petition received at the Council Meeting held on 20 April on the use of Glyphosate on Public Land.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 5 June 2023

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Presentation to Streetscene Scrutiny Panel

Date: 5 July 2023

Report of: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Subject: OPPORTUNITIES PLAN 2023-2027

SUMMARY

The Executive Leader delivered the Budget presentation for 2023/2024 at the full Council meeting on 24 February 2023. During the presentation it was acknowledged that the Medium-Term Financial Strategy forecast a future funding gap of £2.4m by 2026/27.

Since this time, there has been considerable activity to develop a new Opportunities Plan of projects to close the gap.

This presentation provides an overview of the way in which the Opportunities Plan has been developed and the significant Year 1 project proposals that relate to the Scrutiny Panel area.

An update on the full Opportunities Plan and finalised Year 1 project proposals will be presented at the Executive on 4 September 2023 for their agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are invited to note the contents of the presentation and make any comments or further proposals for consideration as part of the Opportunities Plan.

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Streetscene Scrutiny Panel

Date **05 July 2023**

Report of: **Head of Streetscene**

Subject: **Clip and Collect Garden Waste Service Update**

SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the operation and performance of the Garden Waste Clip and Collect Service since its introduction in February 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Panel scrutinise the performance of the Clip & Collect Chargeable Garden Waste Service and comment accordingly.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Council's new chargeable garden waste service, Clip and Collect, commenced in February 2022. This followed the 'early bird sign up' period where residents could subscribe to the new service and receive their bin for half price.
2. In February 2023 the new service completed its first full year in operation and is now well into its second year. The period of first year subscription renewals concluded towards the end of April 2023. This marks the end of the project implementation phase and the transition to business as normal.
3. The project implementation has been very successful, and this report provides a summary of the subscription and renewal numbers and details of the summer promotion to sell an additional 2000 subscriptions.

BACKGROUND

4. When the Review of the Garden Waste Collection Service report was presented to the Executive in October 2020, the projection was to achieve 15,000 subscribers to the new service by the second year of operation. The breakdown was to provide:
 - 13,000 - year 1 subscriptions
 - 15,000 - year 2 subscriptions
5. At the peak of the growing season, May/June 2022, there were over 20,000 subscriptions. This represents a significant increase on both the year 1 and 2 sales targets.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

6. March 2023 was the first phase of subscription renewals for the bulk of the customers who signed up to the service during the promotional period in September/October 2021. This was around 15,000 in total.
7. At the end of the renewal period there were 1130 properties that had not renewed their subscription. Around a quarter of these were due to changes in residents' circumstances i.e. moving out of the area or deceased.
8. However, the majority have made the conscious decision not to renew. These households were sent up to three reminder emails or letters, about renewing the subscription but the majority did not respond. The collection crews do not collect any bins that are put out without an active subscription.
9. On the positive side there have been 1332 new subscriptions since the March 2023 and the current number of active subscriptions totals 20,143.
10. Residents have a choice of bin size at 140 litres or 240 litres capacity and can have up to 5 bins. The 240-litre bin is the most popular size with 13,700 being sold against 5,900 140 litre bins.

SALES PROMOTION

11. To encourage even more residents to benefit from a subscription, the Council is launching a special offer for a limited time only. From 5 June 2023 until 31 August 2023, residents can receive their brown-lidded wheelie bin for half price.
12. Residents can choose from two bin sizes:
- (a) **140 litre wheelie bin:**
 - i. Annual subscription £55
 - ii. Bin £18.50 instead of £37
 - (b) **240 litre wheelie bin:**
 - i. Annual subscription £65
 - ii. Bin £19.50 instead of £39
13. Residents can have up to five bins and this offer also extends to existing subscribers who wish to purchase additional bins. The brown-lidded bins keep waste contained and dry with less mess, plus each one collected by the Council helps to reduce carbon emissions in the Borough as it avoids residents making unnecessary trips to the tip.
14. The target is to sell 2000 additional subscriptions during the promotional period. The table below shows the number of sales at the report deadline 14 June 2023 since the commencement of the promotion on 5 June 2023.

Subscription option	Amount (5/06 to 14/06)	Income to FBC
140 Litre wheelie bin	211	£11,605
240 Litre wheelie bin	609	£39,585
Total	820	£51,190

SERVICE OPERATION

15. The garden waste collection service operates with three daily core collection rounds plus a one day a week collection for the narrow access properties. Each vehicle has a driver and one loader, but this increases to two loaders when the weight collected on the collection round exceeds eight tonnes.
16. Vehicles are fitted with an electronic tablet that is connected to the garden waste management system database. This shows which properties have an active subscription and this information is highlighted on the tablet as the vehicle passes the property.
17. The crews also use the tablet to input information such as 'bin not out' or 'bin out' without a subscription which helps the garden waste administrator to deal with resident's enquiries.

18. A comparison of how garden waste volumes collected have changed, following the introduction of chargeable wheeled bin service, is difficult due to other factors impacting collection volumes, including weather and the pandemic.
19. However, the figures indicate an increase in the tonnage of garden waste collected since the new service commenced in February 2022. In 2021, when collections were via a 20kg reusable sack, 4152 tonnes were collected. This increased to 5009 tonnes in 2022 following the introduction of the new service. This increase is reflected in a 1.67% improvement in the Council's recycling rate which is now 35.84%.
20. The table in appendix A illustrates the tonnes of garden waste collected each month from 2020 to April 2023. This highlights May and June as the months that normally generate the highest tonnages. This is evident from the figures for May 2023 which show 885 tonnes collected in the month, which is by far the highest weight collected.

CONCLUSION

21. The introduction of a chargeable garden waste collection service has been very successful, exceeding initial projections and generating a valuable revenue source for the Council in the region of £1.5m. This income helps to offset the cost of waste and recycling collections in the Borough.
22. The scheme currently has 20143 active subscribers, and the target is to increase this by 2000 with the summer promotion. This promotion is currently going well with 820 additional subscriptions sold to date.

Appendices: APPENDIX A – Monthly Garden Waste Tonnages

Background Papers: Executive Report - Review of the Garden Waste Collection Service
October 2020

Reference Papers: None

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Mark Bowler Head of Streetscene

APPENDIX A – Monthly Garden Waste Tonnages



