

ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE**27 June 2016 at 7.30 pm**

MEMBERS: Councillor Jill Whitehead (Chair), Councillor Manuel Abellan (Vice Chair) and Councillors Nighat Piracha, Adrian Davey*, Richard Marston*, Patrick McManus*, Steve Penneck, Tony Shields, Paul Wingfield and Hanna Zuchowska.
(*Absent)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Jill Whitehead opened the meeting and welcomed new members, including Councillor Manuel Abellan, new Vice-Chair of the Committee.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATIONS OF SUBSTITUTES

Apologies were received from Councillor Adrian Davey, Councillor Richard Marston, and Councillor Patrick McManus. Councillors Joyce Melican and Neil Garratt attended as substitutes.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Penneck declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2016 were agreed and signed as an accurate record. As a matter arising, Councillor Neil Garratt requested if the timeline for the crossings at the Heart of Hackbridge (Item 34) had been decided as yet. Warren Shadbolt, Executive Head of Safer and Stronger Communities responded that work was planned for the end of August/beginning of September 2016.

5. ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Sam Barker, Head of Commissioning Support, outline the purpose of the new scorecards for each committee produced from the Covalent Software. This software provides live data on the night with changes highlighted, which the Head of Commissioning Support identified to the Committee.

Councillor Jill Whitehead asked questions in regards to the presentation:

- 1) These are existing KPIS, what are the possibilities for looking at how relevant they are now given the changing environment?
- 2) Is it possible to include qualitative KPIs as well as quantitative?
- 3) Will new strategies which have their own KPIs be included in the overarching KPIs over time?
- 4) How will KPIs for shared services with other Boroughs be incorporated into these?

The Head of Commissioning Support responded:

- 1) Relevance: This is a top slice of all the KPIs reported across the LA, and this is an initial set of indicators which have been deemed by officers and members as the most important for this committee, but there is scope to change that as we go forward.

**Environment and Neighbourhood Committee
27 June 2016**

- 2) Qualitative KPIs: The scorecard is quantitative in its nature, to measure the delivery of things. However, the council is moving towards measuring outcomes, but these require longer-term reporting. There are tools for that such as the Residents' Survey, and the council's developmental assets approach. This is a month-by-month report.
- 3) New strategy KPIs: There is scope to add additional KPIs.
- 4) Shared Services: The Strategic Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration responded that this set is a small snapshot of all the indicators. KPI data will be collected from shared services, and some are already reflected in the information shown in the report. The information can be changed at any time to include new/different data.

Councillor Steve Penneck was positive about the valuable and useful information contained in the new KPI report. He noted that some targets will be entered month by month but commented that thought should be given about how to best reflect these to show the trend over time.

The Strategic Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration responded that the new system can be refined, but some data will be related to reporting periods, as some are only measured yearly/quarterly.

Councillor Neil Garratt requested if there was a way to see figures per quarter/per year. Councillor Garratt also mentioned that for the Housing, Economy and Business Committee, a Task and Finish Group had been established to choose which indicators should be included, and he asked if this could be done for Environment and Neighbourhood Committee as well? The Chair, said she would seek members' views on this possibility for E and N Committee outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee considered the performance dashboard for Environment and Neighbourhood Committee.

6. UPDATE ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Keith Fraser, Principal Planner (Transport), outlined progress on recent projects as detailed in the report and tabled a revised Appendix A (attached as the appendix to the minutes).

Councillor Paul Wingfield asked if there was anything that could be done to alleviate the air quality issues in Worcester Park. The Principal Planner advised that this was an ongoing issue, which officers were discussing with Kingston Council as many of the problems were cross-border in nature.

Councillor Jill Whitehead advised that Transport for London were aware that there was an issue at Worcester Park, which had led to the recent TFL Zetol project there to find ways to reduce or prevent congestion.

RESOLVED that the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee:

- 2.1 Noted the progress made on the implementation of sustainable transport initiatives within the Sustainable Transport Strategy (STS)
- 2.2 Agreed the revised targets and actions set out in the Action Plan for the STS.

Ian Price, Team Leader, Strategy and Commissioning updated the Committee on the progress of the Quietways Project, which TFL was funding in Sutton. TFL was keen to work with the London Borough of Sutton on finding a suitable route, and the initial route assessments had been completed. Meetings were also being set up with relevant ward councillors to look at route options. The next stage in the process would be to agree a route in principle, so that the work needed could be assessed by Sustrans, and included in a delivery plan to submit to TFL.

**Environment and Neighbourhood Committee
27 June 2016**

Councillor Steve Penneck expressed concern about using dedicated cycle tracks in narrow residential roads, and the affect this could have on parking, and he asked if the scheme would allow for improvements at dangerous junctions.

Councillor Neil Garratt said there was generally a poor cycle infrastructure in the UK, and he asked that something appropriate should be put in place that could be used by cyclists, Councillor Neil Garratt asked if the traffic volumes on the quietways route had been measured as yet.

The Team Leader, Strategy and Commissioning responded that there were counters on the road already, and undertook to share the data with Councillors.

Councillor Paul Wingfield asked if there was potential to use the space alongside Nonsuch Park for a cycling path. The Team Leader, Strategy and Commissioning responded that Nonsuch Park came under Surrey County Council but he would investigate.

Councillor Tony Shields noted that there were issues with safe places to park cycles. The Team Leader, Strategy and Commissioning answered this could be looked at within the LIP budget.

Councillor Steve Penneck requested the timescale for the Quietways work and he asked if there would be consultation on specific parts of the route. The Team Leader, Strategy and Commissioning said the initial feedback would be received from ward councillors, as soon as possible, before the school summer break. The overall delivery, funding-wise from TFL would be in Spring 2017. The consultation would be flexible.

RESOLVED:

2.3 In relation to the Quietways project, agree:-

- a) Continue partnership working with TfL, Sustrans and London Borough of Merton and the process to deliver a good quality Quietways cycle route between Sutton and Morden;
- b) Agree in principle to the route as shown on the drawing 2015_0230_Quietways_2.2_Maps;
- c) Agree that the Chair of Environment and Neighbourhood Committee and Executive Head of Safer and Stronger Communities have the final decision on route alignment, detailed design and delivery of the project in consultation with ward councillors.

7. RESPONSE TO SPORTING FUTURE, A NEW STRATEGY FOR AN ACTIVE NATION

Jan Underhill, Executive Head of Wellbeing outlined the purpose of the new Government Strategy, as a result of which it was intended to set up a Sports and Exercise Network in the Borough, which would be self-organising and self-funding. It was noted that sports were not statutory functions for Councils.

Councillor Paul Wingfield commented that sports organisations were fairly limited, and that we would need a database for all the different types of networks to ensure all groups and ages are covered, particularly those that are currently not getting exercise. The Executive Head of Wellbeing responded that the Council was gradually building up information on activities available in the borough.

**Environment and Neighbourhood Committee
27 June 2016**

Councillor Steve Penneck said that the current barriers to sports and exercise needed to be investigated, but he understood this was difficult with no resources.

Councillor Neil Garratt raised the use of parks commercially for fitness. The Strategic Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration agreed there was a real balance between charges and encouraging people to use the facilities. Whilst there were currently no plans to charge for park runs, the out-sourcing of the parks service to a contractor could have an effect on this.

Councillor Jill Whitehead asked how confident staff were that they could find a suitable lead organisation for the Sports Network. The Executive Head of Wellbeing responded that they were currently in discussions with organisations.

The Chair pointed out that there was scope to link with other committees to look at these issues such as the Health & Wellbeing Board.

RESOLVED that the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee:

- 2.1 Agreed a stakeholder network approach to the implementation of the Government's Sports Strategy through the development of a Sutton Physical Activity Network, as set out in 5.3 to 5.6.

8. AWARD OF PREFERRED BIDDER STATUS FOR WASTE COLLECTION AND RELATED ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

Councillor Tony Shields raised concerns before the start of the presentation that due to the recent vote to leave the European Union, that there would be potential changes in the current EU legislation in regards to waste collection and disposal, and questioned how appropriate it was to vote on an 8 year contract at this time of uncertainty. It was pointed out that the South London Waste Partnership contract award was unaffected by the Brexit vote.

The South London Waste Partnership of four boroughs (Sutton, Kingston, Merton and Croydon) had been involved in the procurement of the proposed waste collection contract, and two of these Boroughs (Sutton and Merton) in the procurement of the Parks maintenance contract, with options for the other two Boroughs to join later. The procurement had been undertaken over a period of time with appropriate legal and financial advice in place from experienced consultants.

It was pointed out that due to large-scale government cutbacks in funding impacting on all councils nationwide, that harmonisation of waste collection across the four Boroughs offered substantial savings. In Sutton, the savings were worth £1.5m per year after the first year or over £10 m over eight years.

Matt Clubb, Executive Head of Environment Commissioning gave a presentation on the overview of the Lot 1 (Waste Collection) and Lot 2 service bids (Parks maintenance). The Executive Head of Environment Commissioning advised that the 8 years would commence from 2017, with an option to extend for another 8 years after that, and then again, bringing the total to 24 years. It was advised that Kingston Council had agreed the proposal at their Committee Meeting, and it had been endorsed by the South London Waste Partnership Joint Committee, with decisions going to Merton Council on 4 July (*post meeting note: this was called in*), and Croydon Council on 11 July (*post meeting note: this was agreed*).

Post meeting note: This was agreed by all boroughs.

An overview was given of the proposed changes, as well as the benefits of the proposal. Service changes were planned for April 2017 for the London Borough of Sutton.

**Environment and Neighbourhood Committee
27 June 2016**

Councillor Nighat Piracha asked if there was anything that would remain in-house, and who should councillors contact with issues they received from residents. The Executive Head of Environment Commissioning advised that there would be a client team responsible for managing both contracts, and any issues would be directed to that team. Some elements would remain in house in Lot 2 such as tree inspections, and parks equipment decisions which currently came under Local Committees.

Councillor Tony Shields expressed concern that the waste handling regulations were from the EU and therefore may change.

The Strategic Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration advised that officers had received specialist legal advice, with clauses allowing for changes in legislation, and a lot of the EU current legislation was also enacted in UK law.

Councillor Manuel Abellan asked how the performance of the contractor would be monitored, and asked what could be done to reassure those residents who were concerned about the increase in the number of bins required at their property.

The Executive Head of Environment Commissioning responded that the proposed preferred bidder Veolia manages over 40 contracts within the UK and approximately a dozen within London, as a large company which regularly delivers these services in a number of places. There would be a clienting team which would ensure that standards set by the SLWP were met (these were appended to the Committee report), and monetary deductions would be made if these standards were not met. If the standards were not met, the contract could be ceased.

The Executive Head of Environment Commissioning advised that the service would continue to work flexibly with residents, for example, in those areas with steep steps where residents could not use wheeled bins.

Councillor Joyce Melican asked what would happen in those houses with reduced space for wheeled bin storage. There was also concern expressed in regards to the communications plan as this was a big change. Councillor Melican asked how this would be communicated to residents.

The Executive Head of Environment Commissioning answered that the communications plan was being developed around the decision, which would then be fine-tuned, and enacted at appropriate times leading up to the award of contract (if agreed) and then leading up to the launch of the service.

Councillor Hanna Zuchowska raised concern about space, given the increase in bins and asked if the boxes were stackable. Councillor Zuchowska also asked if there was anything in place regarding nappies.

The Executive Head of Environment Commissioning advised that the recycling boxes are stackable, and that neighbouring boroughs with fortnightly collections had not experienced significant problems with nappies, and reminded the committee that the council did run a cloth nappy scheme.

Councillor Neil Garratt asked why there had been no consultation with residents.

The Executive Head of Environment Commissioning answered that there was a consultation in 2012 in regards to the food waste service, the results of which reflected that a large percentage of residents wanted a food waste service (72%), but that figure decreased

**Environment and Neighbourhood Committee
27 June 2016**

significantly when asked if they would pay for that service. The SLWP contract offered the opportunity for a weekly food waste collection at no extra cost to the resident, due to economies of scale and harmonisation across the four Boroughs.

Councillor Paul Wingfield asked what would happen with residents with mobility issues. The Executive Head of Environment Commissioning advised that the 1300 residents currently receiving an assisted collection would be reviewed through the process.

Councillor Tony Shields raised concern at the lack of attempt to save the weekly collections, and raised concerns with due diligence for the lot 2 contract.

The Executive Head of Environment Commissioning outlined the process for selecting the preferred bidders, which followed strict procurement rules established in law. The Executive Head of Environment Commissioning pointed out that the market had been asked to put forward solutions, and all the solutions involved fortnightly residual waste collections and weekly food waste and dry recycling collections. It was also pointed out in discussion that Kingston, Croydon, Bromley and Bexley already offered this in South London, as did over 50% of councils nationwide.

Councillor Tony Shields asked what value would be handed over to the preferred bidder in relation to vehicles.

The Executive Head of Environment Commissioning advised that the existing wheeled bins would continue to be used plus the additional smaller bins required for food and dry recycling, the costing of which was already included. The current vehicles will also be used, but are coming to the end of their useful life, and split-body vehicles would be required for the new services. The Local Authority would be providing the capital for this, which is included in the costings provided.

Councillor Neil Garratt asked what would happen if the contractor experienced financial difficulty, giving concern that LBS staff and vehicles would then be with the contractor.

The Executive Head of Environment Commissioning responded that in the unlikely event that this happened, they must provide the council with a parent company guarantee to run the service for a set period of time (usually 12 months) to give the council time to either bring the service back in-house or to re-procure. All current staff would be TUPE'd over to help with the continuity of providing the services. But the procurement process was set in train to find suitable contractors with an evidenced record in each of the Lots, and this involved a number of filtering procedures such as competitive dialogue (as outlined in the Committee report).

RESOLVED that the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee:

- 2.1 Agreed to award Preferred Bidder status to Veolia (ES) UK Limited for the provision of the Lot 1 services (waste collection, street cleaning, winter maintenance and vehicle procurement and maintenance) for a period of eight years with the option to extend for two further periods of eight years (twenty four in total) to commence from April 2017.
- 2.2 Agreed to award Preferred Bidder status to The Landscape Group Limited for the provision of Lot 2 services (parks, grounds maintenance, cemeteries, verges and tree maintenance) for a period of eight years with the option to extend for a two further periods of eight years (twenty four in total) to commence from February 2017.
- 2.3 Agreed that Amey LG Limited is appointed as the Reserve Bidder for the Lot 1 services and Veolia (ES) UK Limited is appointed as the Reserve Bidder for the Lot 2 services.

**Environment and Neighbourhood Committee
27 June 2016**

- 2.4 Agreed delegation to the Strategic Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration, based on the principles at 4.33 of this report and following fine tuning, to agree the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) and the arrangements relating to the management of the contracts.
- 2.5 Noted the service changes detailed in paras 4.9 - 4.21.
- 2.6 Approved the charge for the Green Garden Waste service, as detailed at para 4.13 of this report, from April 2017.
- 2.7 Noted the requirement to advertise the Council’s intention to grant leases for those LBS properties (which include open space) within scope as detailed at Appendix 9 of this report.
- 2.8 Agreed that the Preferred Bidders are permitted to start consultation with staff and union representatives, prior to contract award, about any proposed changes to employment terms and conditions.

9. ANY URGENT ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DIRECTION OF THE CHAIR

There was no urgent business.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 15 September 2016 at 7.30pm at the Civic Offices.

Appendix to the Minutes

The meeting ended at 9.48 pm

Chair:
Date:

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