

Minutes

Scrutiny Committee

Venue:	Committee Room
Date:	Tuesday 27 September 2016
Time:	5.00 pm
Present:	Councillors Mrs S Duckett (Chair), D Buckle, Mrs E Casling, D Mackay and Mrs D White.
Apologies:	Councillors Mrs W Nichols and I Chilvers.
Officers present:	Keith Cadman, Head of Commissioning, Contracts and Procurement and Janine Jenkinson, Democratic Services Officer.
Public:	0
Press:	0

1. MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on 29 June and 11 July 2016.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 29 June and 11 July 2016.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There was no address from the Chair.

4. GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICE – GRASS CUTTING

The Head of Commissioning, Contracts and Procurement presented a briefing note that outlined the arrangements in relation to grass cutting throughout the District and responded to the concern raised by Councillor Hutchinson that the service had been insufficient during the summer.

Members were advised that the start and finish of the growing season was weather dependent, but normally grass cutting commenced around March / April and continued until September / October.

The Head of Commissioning, Contracts and Procurement reported that the contract was output based, meaning there was no requirement for the contractor to carry out a fixed number of cuts each year or to cut at a prescribed frequency. Different contract standards were in place for areas, based on usage and location; with formal parks and gardens being cut to a higher standard than verges or other amenity areas. The Committee was informed that on average each site received 12 cuts per year.

Members were informed that the first cuts of the season had taken place the week beginning 4 April 2016. Shortly afterwards there had been multiple and repeated machinery breakdowns of three of the main mowers. It was explained that the current mowers were seven years old and new replacement kit was required.

The Head of Commissioning, Contracts and Procurement explained that the faults were reported, and the repair company had either carried out the repair or ordered parts as required. The Committee was informed that additional mowers had been hired between 25 May 2016 and 13 June 2016. It was explained that due to the equipment being specialist and the faults occurring during peak season, there had been a delay acquiring the spare mowers to provide additional cover. Members were advised that the grounds maintenance crews had worked overtime at weekends for the first three weeks of June to manage the workload.

RESOLVED:

To note the report from the Head of Commissioning, Contracts and Procurement.

5. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Work Programme.

The Chair reported that it had been requested that the Scrutiny Committee consider the Programme for Growth. Members agreed to add this to the Work Programme.

In addition, Members requested that an update on the Olympia Park development be provided to the Committee.

RESOLVED: To include the following items on the Work Programme:

- **Programme for Growth; and**
- **Olympia Park development update**

The meeting closed at 5.30pm.