

Gloucester City Council

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION RECORD FORM

Date of decision:	17 March 2017		
Title	Trial Grounds Maintenance Arrangements for 2017		
Decision Maker	Cabinet Member for Environment		
Wards Affected	All Wards	Key Decision	No
Decision: To approve amendments to the Council's grounds maintenance schedule on a trial basis for 3 months, after which period the trial will be reviewed formally and a report submitted to the Cabinet for a decision on the future arrangements.			
Reason for decision: <p>The Council's budget for 2017/2018 requires £432,000 savings to be delivered from within its Streetcare Contract. A number of savings proposals are being developed, with grounds maintenance the first to be proposed formally given the grass cutting season is due to commence shortly.</p> <p>A review of grounds maintenance arrangements identified efficiencies that could be made within this area of the contract, if staff were developed to be multi-skilled and if machinery was upgraded. Therefore it was deemed prudent to identify a more efficient scheduling of work.</p> <p>The level of annual savings attached to this proposal, if successful, will be £100,000 per annum in year 1 moving to £125,000 in future years. For the 3 month trial period the level of savings deliverable would be £37,500. If resource is to be added back into the service then these savings figures will be subject to change.</p> <p>The savings will be realised through Amey developing their grounds maintenance operatives to be multi-skilled, which will no longer require them to employ 11 x agency operatives each year on a seasonal basis to solely carry out strimming duties and attend to hedges/shrubs etc.</p> <p>This reduction in operatives will also be supported by a move to more practical and robust cutting machinery on urban routes, which will provide a more reliable, consistent and effective finish in a variety of climatic conditions and grass lengths.</p> <p>Given this is a trial arrangement, the Council has agreed with Amey for a proportion of the full potential savings figure to be retained by Amey in the event of additional resource being required within the 3 month trial period. If this contingency resource is unused or partly used then the remaining value will be passed back to the Council accordingly.</p>			
Alternative options considered:			

Further options will be developed in time for inclusion within the Cabinet report.

Other relevant matters concerning the decision:

The trial arrangements will be carried out as follows –

- The City's arterial routes/areas will receive a cut and trim every 10 working days;
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- The City's urban routes/areas will receive a cut every 30 working days;
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- The City's urban routes/areas will be trimmed twice a year, with a focus on highway furniture such as street signs, lamp columns and street name plates;
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- A winter season hedge maintenance program will be implemented for those hedges which the Council own or are responsible for, and
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- No changes in frequency or methods are proposed to Gloucester City Homes areas or Gloucestershire County Council in respect of our contracted grounds maintenance obligations in place with these organisations
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Subject to approval, information in respect of trial grounds maintenance schedules will be sent to all Members for their information at the earliest possible opportunity. Furthermore, Officers will be reviewing the effectiveness of the trial and working with Amey to identify any

People Impact Assessment (PIA):

Screening Stage completed: Yes

Full PIA required, completed and attached No

Conflicts of interest (including any dispensations granted):

None

Officer/s consulted:

Jonathan Lund, Corporate Director

Jon Topping, Head of Finance

Lloyd Griffiths, Head of Neighbourhood Services

Shirin Wotherspoon, Council Solicitor (One Legal)

Background documents:

None

Confidential or Exempt Information: No

Scrutiny (including details of call-in procedure where applicable):

This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the publication of the decision.

Call-in Deadline: 24th March 2017

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD:

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England)

Regulations 2012 and is a true and accurate record of that decision:

Decision Maker:

Councillor Richard Cook
Cabinet Member for Environment

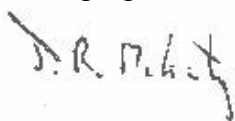
Date: 17 March 2017



Proper Officer:

Jon McGinty
Managing Director

Date: 17 March 2017



CALL-IN PROCEDURE

Call-in should only be used in exceptional circumstances, such as where Members have evidence which suggests that the Cabinet Member did not take the decision in accordance with the principles set out in Article 13 (Decision Making) of the Council's Constitution.

Call-in of a decision must be requested within five working days of the publication of an executive decision. The request must be communicated in writing to a Corporate Director by at least five Members of the Council.

Implementation of a decision that has been called-in is suspended until such time as it has been considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and re-considered by the Cabinet in light of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's conclusions and any recommendations.

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If you have any queries about the content of Decision Records please contact:

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