

**Forest Heath District Council
St Edmundsbury Borough Council**

**WEST SUFFOLK WASTE
AND STREET SCENE
SERVICES JOINT
COMMITTEE**

31 MARCH 2011

JWC11/042

**Report of the Strategic Director (Services) (FHDC)
and the Corporate Director (Economy and Environment)
(SEBC)**

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

Synopsis: This report recommends extending the service level agreements relating to Vehicle Maintenance and A14/A11 Cleansing for a further year.

Commentary:

- 1.0 At the meeting of this committee on 6 June 2008 Members considered reports JWC08/004 and JWC08/005 relating to proposed Service Level Agreements in respect of Vehicle Maintenance and A14/A11 Litter Clearance. Members resolved to accept the recommendations and approved the agreements.
- 1.1 The Service Level Agreements which commenced on the 9 June 2008 run for periods of one year (the Contract Period) and may be extended for further periods of one year each subject to written agreement of both Councils.
- 1.2 On 26 March 2010 Members considered exempt report A595 and resolved to extend the Service Level Agreements for a further year.
- 1.3 Prior to agreeing to extend the Contract Period the provision of the vehicle maintenance and A14/A11 litter clearance services shall be reviewed by this committee.
- 1.4 Upon review of the services provided under each of the Service Level Agreements the Fees set out in each Agreement shall also be reviewed by this committee.

Review of Service Level Agreements

- 2.0 The Service Level Agreement relating to vehicle maintenance has now been in operation for almost 3 years following an initial 12 month contract that preceded the partnering agreement. During that period there has been an overall improvement in vehicle compliance and annual testing pass rates. More recently the interim management structure was approved by this committee which supports a more integrated fleet management strategy.

- 2.1 Whilst the vehicle maintenance agreement was basically the extension of existing St Edmundsbury workshop facilities to incorporate additional vehicles, the Service Level Agreement relating to A14/A11 litter clearance was a new operation for both authorities. Consequently it has taken longer to achieve its original objectives but has also had to operate in circumstances that are not completely within the control of the Councils such as weather conditions and increased public expectation against a restricted budget. Nevertheless the Service Level Agreement relating to A14/A11 litter clearance has been kept under review by both partners and in general is considered to work well.

Review of proposed Fees for 2010/11

- 3.0 In respect of vehicle maintenance it is proposed that the fixed annual charge be decreased by 9% from £44,275 to £40,248 with the hourly rate increasing by 2% from £46.94 to £47.88 (overtime rate increasing from £49.85 to £50.85). This figure takes account of a reduction in the number of vehicles in the Forest Heath fleet as a result of the round reorganisation.
- 3.1 In respect of A14/A11 litter clearance it is proposed that the charge to Forest Heath be increased from the existing level of £1,984.89 per month to £2,034.51 per month.

Finance/Budget/Resource Implications

- 4.0 There are no budget implications at this stage as the stated arrangements will fall within both Councils' approved operating budgets.

Environmental Impact and Sustainability

- 5.0 The maintenance arrangement for Forest Heath's fleet of vehicles, as described in the Service Level Agreement, is subject to audited environmental controls and procedures in line with ISO 14000.
- 5.1 The arrangements for cleansing major trunk roads in the West of Suffolk as described in the Service Level Agreement will address litter problems along the A14, A11 and lay-bys and enhance the environment. Litter will be recycled as far as is possible through arrangements at the Western Way depot in Bury St Edmunds.

Policy Compliance/Power

- 6.0 There are a range of powers relevant to the Service Level Agreement for vehicle maintenance:-
- a) Both Councils are Waste Collection Authorities under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Section 45), and are required to make arrangements as such in accordance with the provisions of the Act and in particular pursuant to sections (collection) thereof;
 - b) Both Councils have a duty under Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure best value in the manner in which their functions are exercised; and
 - c) Section 1 of the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 and Section 111 Local Government Act 1972 confer powers upon the Councils to enter into contracts for the purpose of or in connection with the discharge of their functions.

6.1 In addition with regard to the Service Level Agreement for A14/A11 Litter Clearance:-

- d) Both Councils are empowered to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well being of their areas under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000; and
- e) Both Councils are principal litter authorities.

Performance Management Implications

7.0 These arrangements are subject to internal performance management review through budget monitoring, vehicle road safety compliance, environmental compliance and improved NI performance in respect of litter.

Legal Implications

8.0 There are no legal implications at this stage as the partnering agreement completed on the 9 April 2008 allows for such service level agreements.

Human Rights Act and Diversity Implications

9.0 There are no Human Rights or Diversity Implications.

Crosscutting Implications

10.0 There are no crosscutting implications at this stage.

Risk Assessment

11.0 These Service Level Agreements have now been operating for two years and no additional risks to those originally identified have been become apparent.

Council Priorities

12.0 *Forest Heath*

- Community engagement and communication; and
- Street scene and environment.

St Edmundsbury

- Improve the safety and well being of the community; and
- Secure a sustainable and attractive environment.

RECOMMENDATION:

13. Members are recommended to:

- 1) Approve the extension of the Service Level Agreements relating to vehicle maintenance and A14/A11 litter clearance for a further period of one year each subject to the fees identified at 3.0 and 3.1 of this report.**

Documents Attached

None.

Nigel McCurdy/Sandra Pell
Strategic Director (Services)/Corporate Director (Economy and Environment)
23 March 2011

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