

(This report is not a key decision. This report has been subject to appropriate notice of publication under the Council's Access to Information Rules)

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

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

15 JUNE 2012

JWC12/045

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

Summary and reasons for recommendation(s)

This report recommends extending the Service Level Agreements relating to Vehicle Maintenance, A14/A11 Cleansing and Rural Channel Sweeping for a further year.

Recommendation(s)

The Joint Committee are requested to approve the extension of the Service Level Agreements relating to vehicle maintenance, A14/A11 litter clearance and rural channel sweeping for a further period of one year each subject to the fees identified at 12, 13 and 14 of this report.

Contact Details

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| Name: | Mark Walsh |
| Title: | Head of Service |
| Telephone: | 01284 757330 |
| E mail: | mark.walsh@stedsbc.gov.uk |

Lead Officer

How will the recommendations help us meet our strategic priorities?

- 1 The Service Level Agreements help us offer identical services across West Suffolk meeting both Councils priorities of promoting and securing sustainable and attractive street scenes and environments.

Wards affected

- 2 All Wards across both Councils.

Key issues

- 3 In addition to being an in house service offering flexibility and cost effectiveness, the Service Level Agreements in place also aid the integration of service delivery across both Councils. Their performance is reviewed below together with the proposed fees for 2012-13 to allow Members to consider extending them for a further year.

Progress to-date

- 4 At the meeting of this committee on 6 June 2008 Members considered Report Nos JWC08/004 and JWC08/005 relating to proposed Service Level Agreements in respect of Vehicle Maintenance and A14/A11 Litter Clearance. At the meeting of this Committee on 31 March 2011 Members considered Report No JWC11/043 relating to a proposed Service Level Agreement in respect of Rural Channel Sweeping. At both of these meetings, Members resolved to accept the recommendations and approved the Agreements.
- 5 The Service Level Agreements which commenced on the 9 June 2008 and 1 April 2011 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.
- 6 On 31 March 2011, Members considered Report No JWC11/042 and resolved to extend the Service Level Agreements in respect of Vehicle Maintenance and A14/A11 Litter Clearance for a further year.
- 7 Prior to agreeing to extend the Contract Period, the provision of the vehicle maintenance, A14/A11 litter clearance and rural channel sweeping services shall be reviewed by this Committee.
- 8 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

- 9 The Service Level Agreement relating to vehicle maintenance has now been in operation for almost 4 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. An approved interim management structure has also supported a more integrated fleet management strategy.

- 10 The Service Level Agreement relating to A14/A11 litter clearance generally continues to work well but has 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.
- 11 The more recent Service Level Agreement relating to rural channel sweeping is operating well and came about as a result of the joint cleansing review. A new vehicle for this work is currently on order and is due to be delivered later in the year.

Review of proposed Fees for 2012/13

- 12 In respect of vehicle maintenance it is proposed that the fixed annual charge be increased by 1% from £40,248 to £40,635 with the hourly rate increasing by 1.2% from £47.88 to £48.46 (overtime rate increasing from £50.85 to £51.93).
- 13 In respect of A14/A11 litter clearance it is proposed that the charge to Forest Heath be increased from the existing level of £2,034.51 per month to £2,130.13 per month.
- 14 In respect of rural channel sweeping it is proposed that the charge to Forest Heath be increased from the existing level of £1,534.08 per month to £1,606.18 per month.

Other options considered

- 15 Not Applicable.

Community impact

- 16 The Service Level Agreements aim to contribute positively to the provision of sustainable waste and street scene services across West Suffolk, offering an identical level of service across both Councils.
- 17 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.
- 18 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.
- 19 There are no human rights or diversity implications associated with this report.

What consultation has been undertaken and what were the outcomes?

- 20 No direct consultation has taken place however any feedback provided on the aforementioned services is taken into consideration in service planning and delivery.

Financial and resource implications

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

Risk management implications

- 22 The Service Level Agreements have now been operating for three years and no additional risks to those originally identified have been become apparent.

Legal/Policy implications

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

- 24 In terms of policy implications 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.

- 25 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.

Documents attached

None

Background papers

None