

**ITEM NO. 13**

**REPORT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 25 FEBRUARY 2019**

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**Meeting:** Council  
**Date:** 25 February 2019  
**Subject:** Grounds maintenance services for Rutland County Council  
**Report of:** Russell Smith  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Jonathan Bateman  
**Status:** Decision  
**Relevant Ward(s):** n/a

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1 Purpose Report

1.1 To consider and approve the acceptance of the delegation of grounds maintenance services from Rutland County Council.

2 Recommendations:

2.1 **To approve the acceptance of delegation from Rutland County Council (subject to approval by Rutland County Council), to provide Grounds Maintenance Services commencing 1 March 2019 for 3 years.**

2.2 **To delegate the finalisation of the delegation and associated contract variations with FCC Environment Ltd. to the Head of Environmental Services, Economic Development and Major Projects in consultation with the Head of Legal & Democratic Services and the Portfolio Holder.**

3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

3.1 Harborough District Council was approached by Rutland County Council after their current contractor had significant service delivery issues.

3.2 As Harborough District Council (HDC) has an integrated Waste Management, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Contract which operates at a high standard and provides an excellent level of service; talks between both parties commenced to see if HDC could provide this through a delegation for the next 3 years until Rutland's contracts were re-tendered for commencement in 2022.

3.3 The delegation would further build on the two authorities joint working, with possible an option to discuss future contracts as part of both council's contracts expiring in 2022 and 2023.

#### 4 Impact on Communities

4.1 There are no impacts on the residents of Harborough District directly; however the provision of services to another authority strengthens the contract we have in place with FCC Environmental Ltd.

4.2 There are positive impacts for Rutland communities as the service provision and delivery will be significantly improved.

#### 5 Key Facts

5.1 Harborough District Council operates an integrated Environmental Services Contract across the district with FCC Environmental Ltd since 2009, with the contract ending in March 2023.

5.2 The service provision on this contract is of a high standard across all four service areas including, domestic waste collection, commercial waste collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance.

5.3 The grounds maintenance service has by recommendation been promoted to other third parties, commercialisation of this service in particular has seen Harborough District take on additional contractual work for grounds maintenance at Schools, Clubs, Parish Councils etc.

5.4 Rutland County Council approached HDC later last year to see what service could be provided by HDC, through the Environmental Services contract.

5.5 Analysis of the contract specification for Rutland was similar to services provided for HDC, making the delegation and provision of the service relatively easy to provide.

5.6 The delegation will provide Rutland County Council with a significant improvement in service delivery and further improve existing joint working relationships between both authorities.

#### 6 Legal Issues

6.1 The delegation once approved by Rutland will allow them to delegate their service for Grounds Maintenance to HDC and therefore remove the need to go out to tender.

6.2 HDCs Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Rutland's Director for Governance have, also, agreed the proposal with regards to legal compliance.

## 7 Resource Issues

- 7.1 The delegation will be for £272,025 (FCC cost of £240,000 plus as outlined in 9.1 below, £32,025 charge for HDC) in Year 1 with inflationary increases in subsequent years in line with the FCC contract.
- 7.2 FCC will provide additional personnel resources to the Rutland Grounds Maintenance Service.
- 7.3 In addition, there will operational equipment, such as mowers, vans, trailers provided through the delegation, this will ensure that the resources for the HDC contract are not used and remain dedicated to district services.
- 7.4 Contractual management will be covered by the current Environmental Services Team at Harborough and working closely with the Rutland Environmental Services Team.

## 8 Equality Implications

- 8.1 There are no equality implications for this report.

## 9 Impact on the Organisation

- 9.1 Harborough District Council has priced the resources required for us to manage the delegated service, this equates to £32,025 per year, with an uplift starting in 2020 year on year.
- 9.2 Rutland County Council will also have a contracts officer dealing with the daily issues and liaising with HDC. As such, there will be no significant impact on the organisation.

## 10 Community Safety Implications

- 10.1 There are no community safety implications.

## 11. Carbon Management Implications

- 11.1 FCC Environmental will operate under the contractual arrangements we have at Harborough, managing where feasible any carbon reduction schemes.

## 12 Risk Management Implications

- 12.1 As with any new contractual arrangement, there are risks to consider. These will be most significant during the mobilisation phase and the early stages of service delivery. These will be mitigated as far as possible through mobilisation planning, close contract monitoring and continuous client-contractor communication in addition, building on the relationship between staff at Harborough District Council and Rutland County Council.

13 Consultation

13.1 There are no specific consultation requirements arising from this report.

14 Options Considered

14.1 n/a

15 Background Papers

15.1 None

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**Previous report(s): n/a**

**Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: No**

**Ward Members Notified: n/a**

**Appendices: n/a**