

EIT Review of Commercial Trading Services

Response from Executive Scrutiny Committee

Executive Scrutiny Committee noted the proposed scope and project plan for the review at its meeting on 10 June 2009.

Baseline Information Challenge

Baseline and initial challenge information was presented to Executive Scrutiny Committee on 22 September 2009 and a further report on progress and emerging findings on 17 November 2009.

The Committee supported the options for further investigation which included:

- Reduction in commercial waste collections from two rounds to one
- Introduction of re-usable green waste sacks
- Appointment of dedicated procurement/ contracts officer to generate savings through improved buying of materials and negotiation of contracts

Members noted that the re-useable sacks were more environmentally friendly and had a life span of about five years.

Options Challenge

At its meeting on 16 February 2010, Executive Scrutiny Committee was presented with final appraisal information together with recommendations for the strategy and business development of the Commercial Trading Services. The Committee congratulated officers on the review and report and supported the recommendations going forward to Cabinet.

Members also made the following comments:

- The introduction of re-useable green waste sacks was welcomed although it was noted that there might be complaints in some wards. Officers stressed that residents could still purchase their own clear plastic bags which would continue to be collected
- Members raised concerns that the size of the green waste sack would make them heavy for some residents to lift
- Members questioned whether the current customers of the tea service would be willing to increase the amount they paid to fully fund the service
- Some residents, who do not hold a credit/debit card, have experienced problems paying in advance for bulky waste collections. Officers advised that other forms of payment were accepted at Customer Service Centres and that residents could also take bulky items to the Household Waste Recycling Facility
- There was a need for greater publicity to residents about the consequences of using unlicensed waste collectors. Members also queried whether licensed operatives could be identified through the display of a licence or in some other way.