

Environment Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 25 October 2011

Review of Care for Your Area Services Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

The Committee met on 24 October and considered the draft report, which outlined more detail of the options agreed previously for the Review of Care for Your Area, as follows:

- Undertake a review of management and supervision structures where recent staffing changes have taken place, e.g. Countryside Parks, Markets
- Reconfigure refuse and recycling rounds where known efficiencies can be made without disruption to collection day
- Parks Improvement Fund - reduce budgets by £100,000
- Reduce supplies and services budgets (across all services) by £100,000
- Street Cleansing / Grounds Maintenance - As part of ongoing discussions with TU partners, service condition changes to be agreed and implemented. Expressions of interest to be formally sought from those employees who may be unable to adapt to changes for a potential ER/VR scheme
- Income from recyclable material - Increase income targets from the sale of recycling materials by £230,000

It is predicted that these options will save £830,000.

Two options, for officers to carry out further work, were also included in the report as follows:

- That the feasibility of acquiring land or existing Council-owned land suitable to house the entire service at one depot location be explored.
- That the feasibility of partnership working and alternative delivery models be explored to deliver 24/7 workshop support service to a range of internal and external customers, including other local authorities.

The recent Government announcement regarding the Weekly Collections Support Scheme was noted and the Committee requested that officers examine the detail of the scheme to identify if Stockton is eligible for this funding.

The following options, which would have further or significant frontline impact on services, were discounted by Members:

- Further staff reductions
- Alternate weekly collections
- Stop green waste collections
- Reduce number of grass cuts from 16 to 14
- Further reduce supplies and services budgets
- Reduce annual inflation and growth increases from general fund

The Committee will agree the final report and recommendations at their meeting on 5 December. The review is on track to report to Executive Committee on 31 January and Cabinet on 9 February.

Review of Waste Management

The Committee attended a site visit to the Recycling Facility on 11 October.