

Environment Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 22 November 2011

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

The Committee met on 24 October and approved the draft report, which includes the following recommendations:

- 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 per annum.

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.

Given that, from an early stage, the direction from the Committee was to focus the review options on areas which would have a minimal front line impact, it has been possible to complete the review process more quickly and the final report (which appears elsewhere on this agenda) will now be submitted to the Cabinet meeting on 8 December 2011.