

Runnymede Borough Council  
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
14 January 2021 at 7.30pm via MS Teams

Members of the Committee present: Councillors M Heath (Chairman), J Wilson (Vice-Chairman, B Clarke, S Dennett, T Gracey, J Olorenshaw, S Walsh, D Whyte and M Willingale

Members of the Committee absent: Councillor M Brierley

Councillors L Gillham, C Howorth, R King, S Lewis and I Mullens also attended

392 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 November 2020 were confirmed as a correct record to be signed when the Chairman was physically able to do so.

393 RIVER THAMES SCHEME UPDATE

By resolution of the Committee, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of this matter under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the discussion would be likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to Part 1 of the Act.

The Committee was updated on project deliverables in relation to the River Thames Scheme (RTS). Work was continuing with various agencies including the Environment Agency, Surrey County Council and Local Authority Statutory Consultees/Stakeholders. It was, however, noted that Covid-19 emergency work had diverted resources of all participate organisations away from the RTS in recent months

Officers gave Members an indication of outline timescales in relation to the scheme. It was noted that a further report would be submitted to Corporate Management Committee in due course.

394 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS RESULTS Q1 AND Q2, 2020

The Committee received the results of the Environmental Services Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, 2020.

Regarding dry mixed recycling (ES1) and garden waste and food recycling (ES2), the combined figure was 50.2% which was above the target of 46%. Regarding residential waste, the percentage of bins collected during Quarter 1 was 99.94% and 99.95% in Quarter 2. Given the pressures on the service due to Covid 19 this was very impressive.

Members were pleased to note the figures and stressed the value of having our own DSO, particularly at these unprecedented times. Whilst most local authorities had seen some disruption to their waste collections during Covid 19, Runnymede residents had received a full service throughout this period.

Officers were advised of a compliment received by a Member from a resident regarding a bin collection where there were access problems. The DSO had managed to overcome this in order to

get the resident's bin emptied. Members wished to thank the DSO for all their hard work and asked Officers to pass on their thanks to the team.

395 GROUND'S MAINTENANCE OPTIONS APPRAISAL

By resolution of the Committee, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of this matter under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the discussion would be likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to Part 1 of the Act.

In November 2019, it was resolved that the existing Inter Authority Agreement with Spelthorne Borough Council (SBC) for highways verge cutting be extended until 31 December 2020. Additionally, at that time Members were informed that Runnymede's grounds maintenance contract, covering landscaping works in open spaces of the Borough under the control of the Green Spaces team and Community Services Committee had also been extended until 31 March 2022. The report gave Members a number of options for providing the service from 2021 including combining the Surrey County Council (SCC) and Grounds Maintenance contract into one and tender the service from 2021 onwards or exploring an in-house solution through the provision of a fully funded capability.

Members were advised that initially Officers focused on the feasibility of procuring a contractor to replace the 'Open Spaces' contract and add in the SCC grounds maintenance contract, However, as the project progressed and more analysis and research was undertaken, further options existed for providing the service not only for those contracts but an opportunity to consolidate other contracts identified across the Council currently being delivered by 40+ contractors, alongside in-house staff across various areas/departments of RBC. By consolidating contracts across the Council, there were opportunities to gain economies of scale and deliver savings by utilising improved buying powers, streamline more effective and efficient contract management and performance monitoring, and look at innovative solutions and alternative delivery models.

The Committee received detailed information on the shortlisted options. In order to allow sufficient time to explore the opportunities identified and/or deliver the procurement or legal process required, the existing formal contracts in place would be extended to co-terminate with the Spelthorne BC arrangement for verge cutting on 31 March 2022. Members were supportive of the proposed course of action and were reassured that Officers would monitor performance in relation to verge cutting which had been particularly difficult over the last year.

**RESOLVED that –**

- i) **Members authorise Officers to enter into due diligence discussion in relation to the potential option of a profit-sharing partnership to deliver Grounds Maintenance Plus activity and authorise Officers to engage further in pursuance of that objective prior to any decision being recommended for Member approval; and**
- ii) **the current arrangements with Spelthorne BC for highways verge maintenance and the present arrangements for weed control be extended for a further period until 31 March 2022.**

396 COVID 19 VACCINATION ROLLOUT AT CHERTSEY HALL AND EGHAM HYPHE CENTRE

The Committee was advised that Runnymede Borough Council had been engaged with the local Primary Care Networks, Clinical Commissioning Groups and others in the planning and roll out of

the Covid-19 vaccination programme. There were currently two Council premises being used one being Chertsey Hall and the other being Egham Hythe Centre.

At Egham Hythe the car park did not have a charging policy, but the nearest car park to the Chertsey Hall was the library car park on Heriot Road, which was a pay and display facility. The Council had agreed that staff and volunteers working at Chertsey Hall would be able to park for free at the library car park. Currently any other parking including residents parking to attend Chertsey Hall for their vaccination were required to pay the 1-hour rate of £1.30. Moreover, it was at times necessary for cars to be parked more than 1-hour due to waiting times/recovery time needed following having the vaccine.

Members were advised that Officers had therefore stood down the enforcement at the library car park to ensure those being vaccinated were not impacted by car parking charges. The Committee was fully supportive of this approach and asked Officers to formally communicate this to residents and users of the car park.

Members reported that at the Egham Hythe Centre, whilst parking was free there had been some problems when the Centre's car park was full of cars being parked in residential areas, sometimes partially blocking driveways. It was agreed that Members would speak with the Council's Parking Services Manager regarding a sensible approach to this problem. Additionally, a dialogue with St. John of Rochester Church regarding using their car park in an official capacity for overflow parking would be entered into.

(The meeting ended at 8.57pm)

Chairman