

**A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WAS HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Councillors Allen(P), Mrs Cully(Chairman)(P),Farr(Vice Chairman)(P),Foster-Reed,
Geddes(P),Gill(P),Hylands(P),Jacobs(P),Jessop(P),Mrs Morgan, Kimber(P),Scard(P)

12. APOLOGIES

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was received from Councillor Mrs Morgan.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 11 JUNE 2013.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 11 June 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

15. REPORTS RECEIVED

(i) VISIT TO PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM

A verbal update was provided to Members regarding a visit to Portchester Crematorium on 17 July 2013.

Members discussed a paper provided by Portchester Crematorium identifying the make up of the facility and services that were available.

Concerns were raised with the potential impact the new Co-Operative Crematorium at Havant may have on Portchester Crematorium when operational in late 2013 and it was agreed that a meeting be set up for June 2014 to discuss any impact made. It was suggested that this meeting be with Gosport Borough Council representatives for Portchester Crematorium.

RESOLVED: That a review takes place in June 2014 to identify impact on Portchester Crematorium.

(ii) DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT PROCESS

Consideration was given to a verbal update from Councillor Hylands. It was advised that a meeting had taken place with Ian Rickman to discuss the grant process and previous concerns had been addressed.

It was confirmed that Portsmouth City Council held a preferred builders list and that the tender process was fully comprehensive to achieve the best possible outcome.

RESOLVED: That a report be brought back to the next Committee meeting.

(iii) TEXTILE RECYCLING

Consideration was given to a verbal report from Councillor Kimber who had made contact with Fareham Borough Council to look at how the textile recycling scheme could benefit Gosport.

A paper was circulated to Members detailing the framework contract that had been put in place at Fareham Borough Council and the operational facts were discussed. Members were advised that Fareham had a far bigger land mass and that the majority of Fareham's sites were council owned.

Concerns were expressed with the impact textile recycling may have on charity shop collections and it was agreed that further investigation was required to establish how many sites were currently within the Borough and those that were Council owned.

It was agreed that a working group be set up to investigate the potential textile recycling scheme in the Borough looking at the effect on charity shops.

RESOLVED: That a working group be set up consisting of Councillors Kimber (lead), Mrs Cully, Jessop, and Hylands to progress.

(iv) GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Consideration was given to a briefing note by the Chief Executive providing Members with an overview of the landscape management contract whereby Members were advised that Sodexo had been appointed as the Council's Landscape Management Contractor since December 2010.

It was advised that a series of positive meetings had taken place with Sodexo to overcome performance related issues and that measures had been put in place to change the current ride-on mowers from cylinder to out-front rotary mowers depending on requirement of the area. It was further advised that the meetings had proved to be constructive and that teams under performing were being monitored with weekly reports provided by Sodexo.

Members were advised that the contract was a performance based contract rather than a frequency based contract and that Sodexo were required to organise the programme of works to meet specific standards that were required. Members were further advised that a percentage of the profit achieved was dependant on the completion of the Key Performance Indicators set out within the contract.

Members were further advised that machine tracking devices identifying staff locations had been implemented and that going forward, the use of technology equipment to update daily progress could be used to provide a live feed of works carried out.

Further to a question from a Member it was advised that road sweeping was held under a different contract and that Sodexo were communicating with Urbaser to align grass cutting routes to road sweeping routes.

Members were advised that maps of the Borough were kept up to date via the GGP system and any anomaly was referred to Legal Services for clarification.

Further to Members suggesting a weekly programme be available identifying schedule of works ward by ward areas, it was advised that a grounds maintenance rota would be published to the Gosport Borough Council Website.

RESOLVED: That a watching briefing be kept to establish progress and if required, a review of the contract will take place in September 2014.

16. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PROGRAMME

A) REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY

Gosport Ferry Taxi Rank – It was advised that Councillor Allen would liaise with the Licensing team and report back to the Committee the standards of the Taxi Rank.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Allen consult with the Licensing Team and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

B) WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was updated to reflect the above scrutiny requests.

C) OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRUTINY

There were no other suggestions for scrutiny

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Concerns were raised with the developments of the Vascular Surgery consultation at QA Hospital and it was suggested that a letter be written to Ursula Ward to arrange a meeting to discuss any updates before Gosport formally respond to the consultation.

The Meeting concluded at 20:10pm

CHAIRMAN