

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel
DATE: 22 January 2009

RE: Streetpride Services – Update on information requests from previous meetings continued

Purpose

To update Members on information requested regarding Streetpride Services.

Background

At its meeting on 4 December 2008 the Panel requested that: *'consideration be given to delivering Streetpride services through the private sector'*.

Report

Options for the delivery of our services with a view to improving quality and value for money are given regular consideration. Members will be aware that, following a critical Environment Inspection report in 2002 and the subsequent options appraisal, it was determined that the Highways Maintenance Service would be outsourced. Cabinet has recently agreed, to award a contract for this service to Tarmac subject to a small number of pre-conditions.

Benchmarking has recently been carried out for cleansing activities the results of which are detailed elsewhere within this paper. Also mentioned is the situation in relation to grounds maintenance where we have recently both won and lost contracts in competition with Beechdale and WHG Housing Associations respectively. In relation to the latter, price was only one of the selection criteria and the difference between our bid and that from the successful tenderer was very small. This offers evidence that the service is cost-competitive at the present time although we are always conscious of the need for efficiency savings.

With regards to waste services, it is not considered appropriate to consider outsourcing this service whilst the new collection arrangements are being implemented and any such consideration should be deferred at least until they have 'bedded in'. The new service will be benchmarked and further consideration given to this issue once this has happened.

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