

SERVICETEAM – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE UPDATE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Members to receive the appended report from Serviceteam, on the progress of the Grounds Maintenance contract in Rochford. Garry Such, Serviceteam's Regional Manager will be in attendance at the meeting, to give a further verbal presentation to back up this report and also answer any questions that Members may have.

2. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 2.1 Members are advised that the work programme has continued to experience some operational problems, although the action plan produced by Council officers and Serviceteam previously has seen significant improvement on the slippage. Further action plans have been agreed with Serviceteam and this will ensure that the slippage is caught up as detailed in Serviceteam's report.
- 2.2 Monthly meetings continue to be held between Serviceteam's Regional & Local Managers and Council staff to monitor the programme and it is anticipated that the new work programmes and additional machinery will continue to improve the standard of works undertaken.
- 2.3 Partnership meetings to look at broader issues are continuing, attended by Senior Managers from Serviceteam and the Council, with the Chief Executive attending on an annual basis.
- 2.4 Serviceteam will provide a further grounds maintenance progress report at the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December 2004.
- 2.5 It should be noted that the Council receives few complaints in relation to the grounds maintenance contract; those that do arise generally relate to the commencement of the Spring grass cutting season.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That Members note the content of the progress report together with answers provided by Serviceteam's Regional Manager, in relation to any Member questions around the grounds maintenance contract.

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

Background Papers:

None

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Appendix A

SERVICETEAM GROUNDS MAINTENANCE REVIEW

BRIEF OPERATIONAL REPORT 2004

1. Introduction

Although at the time of writing this report we have had continued dry weather for 5 weeks, the start of the horticultural season was very difficult, due to favourable growing conditions for grass.

We continue to work closely with Council Officers and strive to improve standards across the District.

2. Grass Cutting

It is unfortunate that I have to report that the start of our grass cutting season was problematic for us this year, to the extent that the grass did get out of control through May. However, we have brought in additional machinery to assist in bringing the standard of grass cutting back to specification. I can confirm this is now the case and the additional mowers will be staying on the contract to assist when further growth spurts occur.

3. Football Season

We have had a successful season with most clubs giving positive feedback on how the pitches played and facilities were received. It is our intention to send out a questionnaire to all clubs before the start of play this season, we will provide an update on the results at our next review meeting.

The drainage works actioned at Rawreth and St John Fisher have proved successful, with only one game cancelled since January 2004. The clubs playing at these venues have been very pleased with the results. Unfortunately, prior to the drainage works, many matches were cancelled due to water-logged pitches.

4. Green Waste

At the last review meeting we advised of a green waste trial in operation for the grounds maintenance contract. This trial has proved successful and 12 tonnes of green waste has been recycled through our Cleanaway, Thurrock site. We are at present continuing with this service.

5. Conclusion

We have had 3 difficult months, however I am confident that this is a blip in our service and that over the coming months, working closely with Rochford District Council Officers, standards will improve. We are implementing action plans to

resolve current poor standards which are assisting the management team to further improve standards across the district.

6. Follow Ups

A number of items were raised at the last review meeting and I report as follows:

- Smashed green bottles – these still remain a problem and the parks where this occurs are checked regularly and the appropriate action undertaken.
- Mowing fringes to playing fields are currently being checked by the Supervisor and any works needed will be agreed with officers and actioned, this is in the main grass cutting.
- King George Playing Field is not maintained by Serviceteam.

7. Questions

Garry Such
Regional Manager