



Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 17 February 2011

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. **NOTICE OF CALL-IN MINUTE 287 CABINET 13 JANUARY, 2011 - PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE PROCUREMENT EXERCISE (Pages 1 - 8)**

The Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor Steve Foulkes, and Deputy Leader, Councillor Phil Davies, have called this matter in for the following reasons:

1. The report contains substantial exclusions to the original proposals.
2. There is no costing of these exclusions.
3. There is no reason given for these exclusions.
4. There is no clear indication of what is now included in the potential contract.
5. There is no revised figure given for the new contract value.
6. There is no indication of any revised figure for potential savings.
7. There is no information on the potential impact on staff or staff organisation.
8. It is impossible for members to ascertain from this report whether or not, on the revised contract value, the outsourcing will provide the Council with value for money.
9. The report states that “the proposed exclusions from the scope of this procurement exercise outlined in 3.3 and form of contract in 4.0 will be used to inform the formal OJEU advertisement and Pre-Qualification Questionnaire to commence shortly”. If this happens before members are provided with a further report giving them the full information necessary on which to take a decision to move to tender, they will be put in the position of placing a tender before they even know the value of the contract to be advertised.
10. The lack of any precise knowledge of the in house value of the services to be tendered, or of any detailed breakdown of the individual services, and the lack of any work done on an in house bid which was precluded by Cabinet, means there will be no accurate yardstick against which to gauge any subsequent tenders and make decisions on whether the outsourcing will deliver savings or provide value for money.
11. If savings are minimal it will be important to factor in the lack of future financial flexibility created by the letting of a long term contract.
12. No opportunity has been given to staff to see if they can meet in house any new savings targets while retaining flexibility for the Council.
13. At the call in held in July, the Director of Technical Services stated that any major changes to the procurement exercise would mean that the exercise itself would be subject to further review.
14. Reducing the value of the contract by what looks to be almost half must qualify as a major change.
15. No review has been instigated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members are asked to consider whether they have personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they are.

Members are reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they are subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

3. EXPLANATION OF CALL-IN BY THE LEAD SIGNATORY

4. EVIDENCE FROM CALL-IN WITNESSES

5. EVIDENCE FROM CABINET MEMBER'S WITNESSES

6. SUMMING UP BY MOVER OF THE CALL-IN

7. SUMMING UP BY CABINET MEMBER

8. COMMITTEE DEBATE

9. COMMITTEE DECISION