

SUBJECT:	Grounds Maintenance Contract Future
REPORT OF:	Officer Management Team - Director of Services Prepared by - Head of Environment

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek agreement for a one or two year extension of the joint grounds maintenance contract with Wycombe and Chiltern District Council

2. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- 2.1 This matter is related to the Council's aims to help to provide a clean and decent district where there is pride in, and ownership of, our surroundings and public space. This matter contributes to the Council's aim to deliver value for money services.

3. Background

- 3.1 South Bucks District Council and Chiltern District Council have established Joint Arrangements to work together to share a senior management team and examine opportunities for further savings by joining together of services, assets, officer posts and officer teams.
- 3.2 SBDC already operates a grounds maintenance contract with John O'Connor (Grounds Maintenance) Limited which is shared with both Wycombe and Chiltern Councils. This contract is for an initial term of five years from 1 April 2010 and can jointly be extended for up to 3 years. The grounds maintenance work is both planned and reactive. The present value of this for SBDC is £61,170.00 pa.

4. Discussion

- 4.1 Advantages of a joint contract include:
- ✓ Potential savings for both parties as a larger contract
 - ✓ Increase efficiency and minimise management effort by having fewer small contracts
 - ✓ Assist towards closer working and potential future management changes
 - ✓ Simplify arrangements with one point of contact for all such work at both Councils.
 - ✓ Surety of contract price for the next 2 years within current budgets

- 4.3 Separate specifications have been prepared and delivered for each council based on their particular requirements but with common terms and conditions of contract. Each council is being billed for work done specifically for that council.
- 4.4 This approach would not pre-judge the outcomes of the management service review which will take place later this year.
- 4.5 A similar approach is being adopted by both Chiltern and Wycombe Councils.
- 4.6 Members' views are therefore sought regarding the extension of the contract.

5. Risks and financial implications

- 5.1 There will be the usual risks associated with this extension and no TUPE implications. The contract has been operated professionally and competently since 1st April 2010. There have been no significant failures in delivering the contract to date and there are no issues with the current contractor.
- 5.2 A similar report has been presented to Members of CDC.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The advice of the PAG is sought on whether the Portfolio Holder should be asked to recommend to Cabinet that, subject to the agreement of CDC and Wycombe District Council, the current contract with John O'Conner (Grounds Maintenance) Limited be extended for a further 1 or 2 years.

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Background Papers:	None