

The November ES PDS meeting considered a number of items:

The main aspect of the budget report was the increased costs due to Environment Agency's (EA) new advice that all leaf material from the road & pavement should be considered as contaminated and could not be composted. The cost of disposal into incineration or landfill was an additional £140K, it was not possible to absorb this within the department's budget. Whilst there is a central contingency for street cleaning (of £200K), that was intended to cover necessary additional street cleaning (such as extra deep cleans) rather than changes due to regulatory advice. The PDS's view was the £140K should be drawn from the general corporate contingency rather than the specific central street cleaning contingency (there was no presumption that the specific central street cleaning contingency would be required in 2013/14). The PDS asked the department to explore other disposal routes (such as composting in parks, to avoid the food chain) and whether the EA would accept a risk based approach based on street hierarchy.

The PDS supported the transfer of the Waste & Recycling Centres' site supervisor function (2 posts) to Veolia to allow efficiencies at those sites and achieve the 2013/14 budget savings.

The Street Enforcement Contract currently runs at a small net cost to the Council (a loss). Whilst the service is valued, it cannot continue to run at a loss long term. An extension of the project was supported (to May 2014) which was projected to run at a smaller net loss. In this time the service model would be reviewed and negotiations held to design an appropriate service to operate from June 2014 at no net loss to the Council. For example some Councils achieve a higher collection rate than Bromley.

The PDS considered a traffic scheme on the A224 that continues the PDS's priority of reducing congestion across the borough.

The PDS reviewed the shared parking service progress report. Based on the first 6 months operation the move to the shared service was projected to save £20K more than originally projected p.a. (£114K from £94K).

The PDS meeting then scrutinised the progress of the Portfolio Plan & Portfolio Holder. The main items of discussion were waste, street works, street cleaning (mainly leaf collection), issues with the street lighting replacement contract and parking. It was noted that the street cleaning contractor had completed their first satisfaction survey under the new contract and returned a 75% resident satisfaction service. This represented an improvement over the typical results from the previous council wide 'place' surveys, despite the new service operating at reduced cost.