

Weed Control - update

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REASON FOR ITEM

The Committee at its last meeting requested an update on Weed control. Cabinet at its meeting on 21 January 2016 agreed a new contract for such activity and public details of this are set out below.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

- **To note the information and Cabinet decision.**

INFORMATION

Following a competitive tender process, Cabinet on 21 January 2016 approved the award for the provision of borough-wide control of vegetation to hard surfaces (Roadways, Pavements, Housing Estates, Garages, Footpaths, Public Rights of Way, Drying Areas) commencing March 2016, from the tenders received. The most economically advantageous tender was accepted from Complete Weed Control Trading Ltd. for 3 years with the option to extend for 2x1 year periods.

The new contract will provide a high quality weed control programme across the Borough that assists in the maintenance of the highways and housing estates to be weed free and increase resident satisfaction. Weed control is also a key element in achieving the Green Flag Awards and contributes to the 'In Bloom' campaign.

The addition of a vegetable dye in the applications allows for visual monitoring of the works that also allows both Councillors and residents to see when works have been carried out.

The new contract is more comprehensive and has been updated to incorporate additional areas of work such as tree boxes and housing garage areas that will provide a more inclusive service across the Borough.

In addition to the above, there are some technological advancements with the new supplier, for example GIS mapping and reporting, so officers can report where chemical has been applied to be able to supply more accurate information to Councillors and residents. Also the vehicles that are used to apply the chemical on the highway use an electronic eye to only spray the weeds and therefore are more efficient.

The contract reflects possible changes to the future use/restriction of chemicals and includes a trial of a non chemical treatment.

These changes will improve the service to residents.