

**Barrow Borough Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
7 December 2022**

Grounds Maintenance & Playgrounds Contract

Report from: Head of Operational Services

Report Author: Head of Operational Services

Wards: All

1.0 Summary and Conclusions

1.1 At its last meeting Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to incorporate contract management assurance into its work programme. This report is to give an understanding into the grounds maintenance and playgrounds provision which are currently managed under the Grounds maintenance and Playgrounds contract arrangements.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

(1) Receive the report and note the arrangements for the Councils grounds maintenance and playground maintenance contract and provide any feedback to Officers.

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 The Grounds Maintenance and Playgrounds maintenance contract is delivered by Continental landscapes and is delivered throughout the borough. It is delivered effectively by a robust maintenance and monitoring schedule and keeps the borough's parks, playgrounds and open spaces maintained to a high standard.

3.2 The grounds maintenance aspect covers verge maintenance, burials, litter bin emptying, shrub maintenance and grass cutting for all Parks, Playgrounds, Cemeteries, Open spaces throughout the borough and also included Barrow Park Café, putter and Ranger provision.

3.3 This contract was procured by former Officers of the Council and followed a joint full OJEU tender procedure by Barrow and South Lakes. The contract was

awarded to Continental Landscapes and commenced on 1st April 2010 for 7 years with an option to extend for a further 7 years extension, which was agreed from 1st April 2017 to 31 March 2024 with the inclusion of the Playgrounds inspections, maintenance and litter collection, the inspections undertaken are weekly and quarterly documented safety inspections of all the equipment to ensure they are safe for all users and litter collection of litter bins and the surrounding playground enclosure.

3.4 The contract is managed by the Operational Services department with Officers carrying out inspections for health & safety compliance and contract performance, there is a rectification structure within the contract, however, this is infrequently used due to the open and honest communication with the contractor. Delivery of the contract requirements are discussed openly through weekly operational meetings and monthly documented contract meetings. The key performance indicators within the contract are set out in the contract document, and we aim to deliver these services to this specification. A list of the performance measures are attached at Appendix 1. Officers understand the importance of contract requirements and address any contract failures directly with the contractor. The contract verification process is set out within the Contract particulars and has been used with the addition of the Playgrounds in 2017 and will expire on 31 May 2024, no arrangements have been made to retender or review.

3.5 Members are asked to receive the report and provide any update.

4.0 Consultation

Not applicable for this report.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 None – the report is to update members on contract management

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

6.1 *By enabling residents to live happy, healthy productive lives and by creating a vibrant, safe & welcoming place people want to live.*

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1.1 *None*

Legal

7.1.3 There are no issues to raise in this report.

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

7.2 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? *No – not applicable for this report*

Equality and Diversity

7.3 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Breakdown of Client /contractor communication	Failure to deliver contract requirements	Regular documented contract meetings and open communication to ensure issues can be raised and addressed
Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Insufficient budget should communications breakdown	Other additional arrangements are to be made to complete necessary work resulting in overspend	Regular documented contract meetings and open communication to ensure issues can be raised and addressed

Contact Officers

Marie Richards Head of Operational Services

Appendices Attached to this Report – *If none, please state none or delete section*

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Contract KPIs
2	

Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
1 2	<i>Add links where possible</i>