

Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Public Realm Future Operating Model working group

Terms of reference

Background

In 2013 Herefordshire Council awarded a contract to Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) to deliver public realm services including highways, traffic management, public rights of way, parks and open spaces, street cleaning and street lighting. The contract operation was largely outsourced with the council retaining a small client and contract management function. Public rights of way and traffic management services were brought back in house in 2021. The contract term is until 31 August 2026.

Following this an enhanced contract management team was introduced to improve control and performance of the contractor, but despite improvement in recent years a further review concluded that the current contract model will not deliver the services to the Council's current requirements. The prospect of modifying the contract with BBLP was assessed to establish new processes and procedures that became known as the Future Operating Model (FOM). However legal advice concluded that the degree of contract modification required to instigate the FOM would not be permitted under procurement regulations.

In April 2024 Cabinet therefore agreed that the contract with BBLP will not be extended and will end 31 May 2026. In June it agreed a proposed new future operating model and to begin market engagement on it. It asked for the findings of the exercise to be presented at its meeting on 24 October 2024.

The chair of the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee proposes that the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee scrutinises the findings of the market engagement exercise, and provides a narrative response and any recommendations it wishes to the same Cabinet meeting.

Objectives

The group aims to

- Evaluate any changes to the proposed operating model following the market engagement exercise.
- Appraise the findings of the market testing exercise, and the viability of any future operating model in the marketplace.
- Report and make recommendations to Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee for consideration for presentation to Cabinet on 24 October 2024.

Information required

- Findings of market engagement on the Public Realm Services model
- Draft Public Realm Services model

Witnesses

- Portfolio Holder, Transport and Infrastructure
- Corporate Director, Economy and Environment
- Service Director, Environment and Highways
- Any relevant external stakeholders identified by the committee

Schedule

Agree terms of reference	10 July 2024
Consider the findings of the market engagement exercise and to agree recommendations for approval by the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee.	Date to be confirmed, early October
Present findings and recommendations to Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee.	Committee meeting - date to be confirmed but no later than 15 October
Present recommendations to Cabinet.	24 October 2024