

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROJECT BRIEF. INQUIRY INTO THE CITY COUNCIL'S CONTRACT WITH COLAS.

1. Background.

The Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel identified this topic for possible review and it was subsequently considered at the Oversight Panel meeting on 18 September 2008 and allocated to the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel's 2008/ 09 work programme.

2. Objectives of the Inquiry.

1. To receive an overview of the City Council's contract with Ensign/ Colas.
2. To understand Colas' strategy on:
 - i. Road and footway assessment.
 - ii. Tree replacement.
 - iii. Street cleansing.
 - iv. Drop kerbs installation.
 - v. Work in conservation areas.
 - vi. Landscaping.
 - vii. Surface water drainage.
 - viii. Providing an integrated highways service.
3. To understand Colas' programme of planned maintenance.
4. To understand Colas' management of its subcontractors.
5. To evaluate Colas' performance regarding works that are commenced and then left incomplete for unacceptably long periods.
6. To assess whether Colas maximizes revenue-generating opportunities within the contract.
7. To understand how the City Council achieves value for money with additional capital spend channelled through the contract.
8. To identify possible ways in which the City Council could assist Colas to communicate more effectively with residents.

3. Witnesses.

1. Charles Stunell, Head of Transport and Street Management.
2. Ray Privett, PFI Contract Manager.
3. William Murphy, Highways Manager.
4. Brian Hicks, Managing Director of Ensign.
5. Clive Rankin, Clean City Manager.
6. Councillor Lynne Stagg, Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation.
7. Councillor Terry Hall, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure.
8. Councillor Jason Fazackarley, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety.
9. All other interested members.

4. Next Steps.

This is a stage 1 scrutiny review and will be dealt with in one or two meetings. If members feel satisfied that their concerns have been adequately dealt with, a short report will then be prepared either to be presented to the Cabinet or to be included in the twice-yearly scrutiny update to Council. However, if members require a more in-depth review of this issue, a project brief will be prepared for a stage 2 review.