

MULTI SERVICE CONTRACT UPDATE

1.1 The multi service contract Task and Finish Group continue to meet monthly to monitor a project plan drawn up in partnership with Ubico. Project teams have been set up with representation from the Council, Ubico and in the case of the communication project with a representative of the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Team also. A Project Board chaired by the Strategic Head (Customer Services) also meets monthly to oversee the delivery of the project.

1.2

A summary of progress of the active projects is given below:

- a) Communication – overall strategy produced which covers each stage of the implementation supported by a detailed communication plan.. A Focus Group has met and gave endorsement to the Council's strategy for change and also gave views on colour and type of food waste containers to be used.
- b) Bulky waste collections – charges were introduced on 14th September 2015 and there has been a 75% reduction in requests. The Council's current contractor, Veolia, will continue to provide this service until their contract ends on 1st July 2016.
Flytipping is being monitored to see if there is any impact but it is too early to reach conclusions. If Members are aware of any flytipping please advise Customer Services 01453 754424 or email customer.services@stroud.gov.uk.
- c) Garden waste collections – a chargeable collection system is planned for introduction in February 2016 to run from February to November each year. Residents will be able to register and pay for this service beginning in November 2015
- d) Depot –A planning application for the new depot at the Gossington Truck Stop has been submitted and is currently under consideration. An Employers Agent has been appointed to act for the Council in managing the construction contract. The timetable, subject to negotiation with the contractor when appointed following tender, suggests a February 2016 to end of August 2016 construction period.
Leases for the current sites at Netherhills and Ryeford have been agreed to ensure continuity of operation until the depot is ready.
- e) Vehicle procurement – The Council have used the ESPO Framework to invite tenders for the larger vehicles ie the refuse, recycling and street sweeping vehicles. Consequently orders are to be placed soon for delivery in June 2016.. Discussions have been held with Veolia on possible purchase from them of suitable spare vehicles at end of their contract.

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- f) Governance – The Council will become a shareholder on the 1st February 2016 when the first service (garden waste collection) is provided by Ubico. The Council's shareholder representative will be the Chief Executive whilst the Board of Directors representative will be the Strategic Head (Customer Services). Ubico have agreed to the Council's request for a Member observer to attend Board meetings for an initial period.
 - g) Staff transfer and pensions – the transfer of employees is covered by the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE). Nonetheless Veolia has advised their employees of progress towards transfer and have held discussions with Ubico on their involvement in staff briefings.
 - h) Route optimisation–Ubico have commenced modelling of new rounds which, in order to gain efficiencies, will no longer be restricted by Town and Parish Council boundaries. Inevitably there will be changes to some residents' day of collection but this will be communicated nearer the time new rounds commence.
 - i) Alternate weekly collections – The weekly collection of food waste and the fortnightly collections of residual waste are planned for November 2016. Delivery of the 140 litre wheeled bins for residual waste and of the food waste containers will start in August 2016.
 - j) Food waste –Preferences for the type and size of the food waste bins and the kitchen caddies were identified by the Focus Group and subsequently agreed by the Task and Finish Group
 - k) Grounds maintenance – Draft specification produced.
 - l) Street cleansing – Draft specification produced.
 - m) Building cleaning – Draft specification produced.
- 1.3 In addition to the above regular meetings are held with Veolia who, to date, has been most helpful to ensure a smooth transition to the new contractor.