

## CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

### CABINET COMMITTEE (COMPANIES)

Minutes of a meeting held 20 February 2024,  
At 7 pm at The Guildhall, St. Peter's Place, Westgate, Canterbury

**Present:** Councillor Elizabeth Carr-Ellis (Chair)  
Councillor Alister Brady  
Councillor Andrew Harvey  
Councillor Joe Howes  
Councillor Steph Jupe

**Officers:** Sarah Randall, Leads Contract Manager  
Marie Royle, Service Director People

**In Attendance:** David Maidman, Director, Canenco  
Malcolm Savill, Operations Director, Canenco

#### **558. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Clare Turnbull.

#### **559. Substitute members**

Councillor Andrew Harvey was present for Councillor Turnbull.

#### **560. Declaration of interests**

Marie Royle, Service Director People, made a voluntary announcement that she was a director on the board of Canenco.

#### **561. Public participation**

The Chair confirmed that there were no speakers for the meeting.

#### **562. Canterbury Environment Company Service Delivery Plan for 2024/25**

The Lead Contract Manager introduced the report that outlined the Service Delivery Plan submitted by Canenco for 2024/25 and asked the committee to make any recommendations to Cabinet.

The Lead Contract Manager, and the Director and the Operations Manager, Canenco gave clarification where necessary:

- Members praised the report and the improved performance in 2023/2024 and were encouraged by the progress made with carbon footprint issues.
- The general condition of bins could become an issue if the cost to replace remains significant to residents. Officers explained this would be a decision for the Council to make and not Canenco.
- A review of assisted collections is taking place. There are approx 25 new requests per month/300 per year, partly due to the ageing population. These have also increased since the introduction of a new online form. More robust checks on new applications are being carried out by Locality Officers.
- Recruitment and retention remained a priority and greater consistency of staff has ensured that bin collection issues are minimal in the main, although this was more challenging during periods of staff absence and sickness.
- Concerns were raised about coastal recycling bins, and whether these offered value for money, encouraged contamination and fly tipping, and served the purpose intended.
- It was confirmed that the coastal recycling bins were considered progressive and a pilot at this stage and will be further monitored and reviewed to include the feedback received.
- Members had received negative feedback from residents about grounds maintenance by Curtis Woods on the edge of Herne Bay. Officers confirmed this had been carried out by a specialist tree contractor with instruction from the Environment team, and the area, although not aesthetically pleasing currently, is expected to return with increased levels of biodiversity.
- The early stages of apprenticeships and involvement from local Colleges had not progressed as hoped with lower than expected engagement and momentum. Possible opportunities will be revisited by officers.
- The Studd Hill crew were praised for their team working with very few issues reported there.
- A query was raised regarding fleet procurement and whether there were any plans to implement charging infrastructure at the Cotton Road depot in Wincheap for electric powered vehicles. The opportunities for installing electric charging points are being considered along with other fuels which have zero carbon footprint especially for the HGVs.
- Options for a replacement to the Fordwich depot are being explored but nothing has been formally identified as suitable.
- Members suggested that including more detailed financial information in future delivery plans about the growth bid submissions and net savings would be useful to gain a better understanding of the bigger picture and what work is happening to realise savings and offset costs by officers behind the scenes, and to enable members to fully support the proposals in the plan. This will be included in the next plan.

- The additional costs of green fuel were acknowledged but there are clear benefits of using these towards achieving becoming carbon neutral by a certain date.
- There were plans to replace the tablets held by collection crews and reuse their old tablets with the grounds maintenance crews to enable the 'Confirm' system to be more mobile and accessible. This has not been possible but options to progress are being explored. Discussions with the Digital Team have taken place to devise a 3-step plan. Work streams have been delayed due to the recent council wide system issues.
- The programme of the decarbonising of handheld tools is working well and making life easier and safer for staff offering many improvements. There have been slight delays with supply which have now been alleviated.
- Fully electric mowers have been delivered to cemeteries which is a progressive step. Further roll out will depend on cost implications/budget funding and availability.
- Members welcomed news of internal promotions within crews to retain valued staff.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to vote Recommended to Cabinet: That the Service Delivery Plan for Waste Collection and Street Cleansing Contract and Grounds Maintenance & Associated Works for 2024/25 be approved.

Record of the voting:

For (5): Councillors Brady, Carr-Ellis, A Harvey, Howes, Jupe

Against: None

Abstained: None

**563. Any other urgent business to be dealt with in public**

There was no urgent business to be dealt with in public.

**564. Exclusion of the press and public**

Not required.

**565. Any other urgent business that falls under the exempt provisions**

There was no urgent business.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.34 pm