

# Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No.07/20

**Date:** 1 June 2020

**Briefing paper to:** All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Purpose:** **To provide an update on the transfer of the Council's Waste Contract to Medway Norse.**

---

## Background

Veolia held the Waste Collection and Cleansing Contract from October 2010 and this expired on 30 September 2019.

On 6 March 2018, Cabinet approved the Waste Contract transfer to the Medway Norse joint venture company in accordance with the Teckal exemption. Entering the contract into the joint venture with Medway Norse (created in March 2013) offers best value for money, opportunities for efficiencies between existing contracts already part of the JV and flexibility in future service provision.

The Veolia 2010 Waste contract included recycle and organic waste transfer and recycle disposal. This is outside the scope of the Medway Norse transfer and a separate waste disposal arrangement with Veolia for transfer and treatment was secured.

Veolia retained the domestic waste depot (George Summers Close, Medway City Estate) for their own commercial use. In the short term, Medway Norse has mobilised the waste service from their Pier Approach Road (PAR) depot. The existing services at PAR were relocated on a temporary basis to Deangate.

## Contract transfer

## Project management

The Medway and Norse teams worked on the contract transfer for almost three years from initial feasibility, Cabinet approval and service mobilisation. The close partnership working by Waste, ICT, Finance and Legal Services ensured a seamless transfer to Medway Norse on 1 October 2019. There has been

rigorous governance and scrutiny from all levels of the organisation, including relevant Portfolio Holders and senior officers.

### **ICT systems integration**

This has been an excellent example of partnership working across the Council and Norse. Integrating council ICT systems and Norse BARTEC systems has been a substantial project taking over 12 months to complete. The system integration was ready to go live on 1 October 2019.

### **Recycling materials transfer and disposal contract**

There is only one waste transfer station in Medway able to cope with the volume of materials collected by the organic waste and recycling kerbside services. A two-year contract has been entered into with Veolia for this material, until end September 2021.

### **Collection and cleansing fleet**

Medway Council own the refuse and recycling fleet of 46 vehicles purchased in 2013 via the DCLG grant.

As part of the service move, Medway Norse have ordered 39 new vehicles for street cleansing and ancillary roles with behaviour change graphics, linking into the Medway place branding, as illustrated below.



### **Conclusion**

Although early days with the waste contract, transferring the waste service to Medway Norse has saved the Council the costly expense of external procurement (in the region of £500K-£800K), given service flexibility and will lead to strategic cross-service quality and efficiency improvements.

This is the new generation of waste service provision, with close collaboration and full transparency between the Medway and Norse teams. Feedback from residents has been positive and the service transition seamless.

**Lead officer:**

Sarah Valdus Head of Environmental Services

Tel. No: 01634 331597 Email: sarah.valdus@medway.gov.uk