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Birdham Parish Council
Earnley Parish Council
East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish Council
Selsey Town Council
Sidlesham Parish Council
West Itchenor Parish Council
West Wittering Parish Council

20 September 2019

Dear Parish and Town Council Representatives

Future funding of Selsey and Witterings Mobile HWRS service

Thank you for the courtesy extended to me and my colleague Paul Madden at the joint meeting at Selsey Town Hall on 10 September 2019.

I enclose copies of the minutes which were kindly taken by Becky White of Selsey TC which she has asked me to circulate.

The meeting established there is an appetite to continue discussion about STC/PCs taking on the funding of the mobile HWRS service – without any party's commitment at this stage.

I undertook to summarise the main issues that will need to be resolved in further consideration. The following is intended to start the process of narrowing down an option in the next phase of discussion. It does not represent an offer or any assumption on the part of WSCC that STC/PCs would accept any aspect outlined.

1. It will be for the STC and PCs to determine how many months of the year to offer the service (ie, 6, 9 or 12). The cost is c£4,500 per month.
2. It will be for STC /PCs to determine and agree how the costs are shared between themselves.
3. Treatment of annual inflation would need to be part of any agreement. One option would be to take the lowest of the actual increase calculated in accordance with the contract and the published Retail Price Index (RPI). There is a low risk to WSCC that there would be any significant difference.
4. WSCC is exploring if there is any way the cost can be reduced slightly without detriment to the service (eg by reducing staffing levels outside of peak periods)

5. WSCC is exploring whether charging on a per visit basis would be legal, if the service was badged as a STC /PC service.
6. STC and PCs undertake to be able to provide, no later than 31st March 2020, a jointly approved answer about whether they will fund or not from 2021/22 onwards.
7. If STC/PCs decide not to support, it is likely the service will be withdrawn after 30th September 2020.
8. If the at the meeting on October 8th there is still willingness to pursue, and progress is made on these issues, a draft Agreement document will be prepared to provide the basis of a more formal agreement and so STC and PCs know the basis of what they would be consulting residents on.

Please note that WSCC is not minded to support a phased approach – the steer is that, given the potential delay of WSCC savings for one year, it will need to be “all or nothing” from April 2021.

I hope this is helpful and look forward to our further discussion on 8 October when I also will report back on the charging issue and possible cost reduction.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Read', with a stylized, cursive script.

Steve Read
Director of Environment and Public Protection