

# **BEST VALUE REVIEW - CLEANSING SERVICES**

## **BRIEFING NOTE PREPARED BY COUNCILLOR PARSONS**

The review has been completed and the review group's recommendations are now to be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee, prior to reference to Cabinet for final approval.

Whilst I support most of the recommendations made, there are two recommendations on which I have registered my own concerns, and each of these is based on principle.

**POSSIBLE SIX-DAY WORKING WEEK.** Majority support was given to a suggestion that we should not object to the imposition of a six-day working week, if this was proposed by the favoured contractor of services.

Such a proposal would obviously be to the contractor's benefit. With a smaller capital outlay, they could reduce the number of refuse collection vehicles to cover the collection rounds within the Borough, together with the number of staff employed, and this could make for a lower contract price.

However, there are a number of public holidays, which all fall on a Monday, which would require a 'catching up' exercise, during the rest of the week, which would inevitably extend to include the Sunday, depriving staff of a normal day off in the week.

I am also concerned that the collection of refuse on a Sunday would not be welcomed or in the best interests of the residents.

**ABANDONED VEHICLES.** During the course of the Review, work was ongoing within the Amenities Services Centre to amend the then current procedures in partnership with the Police and East Sussex County Council for the collection and disposal of abandoned vehicles. The agreed new arrangements will, I am told, reduce the time taken to identify, collect and dispose of vehicles at a more beneficial cost to the Council.

However, I do understand also, that a number of other Local Authorities collect the vehicles from their streets in a much shorter period of time than the new procedures are likely to achieve, without the hassle for the Council. I believe that this possible area of service provision should have been included in the Review, and the possibility of securing a contractor by tender to provide all of the service requirements should have been investigated and reported on.

Councillor Ron Parsons

Liberal Democrat Group Member of the Review Team.