

Feedback about issues raised at previous community council meetings

Question	Response
<p>Questions raised at community council on 7 November 2011</p> <p>Question 1: How are contracts for car clubs conducted? How does the Council decide on who gets the contract?</p>	<p>Responses provided by Tim Walker, Environment & Leisure</p> <p>The procurement of services, decision making and contract award are made by following EU regulations and council procedures.</p> <p>EU regulations place thresholds upon the method for procurement, particularly this looks at the value of the contract to be awarded.</p> <p>In the case of the car club contract (2010) the value of the contract fell below the EU threshold that requires the council to meet certain legal requirements. Instead the council followed its own procedures through a competitive quotation process. This involved the council publishing an "Expression of Interest" in a relevant journal, short listing, panel interviews and ultimately a Key Decision by the relevant Chief Officer; at that time the Director of Environment and Housing. This report is known as a Gateway report.</p> <p>Before the Chief Officer takes the key decision the council's own procedures require scrutiny of the decision by either the Departmental Contract Review Board (DCRB) or Corporate Contract Review Board (CCRB). In this case, the DCRB considered a Gateway 1/2 report which set out how the procurement was carried out and also evaluated the draft contract.</p>
<p>Question 2: What are the future plans for Car Club expansion in the Borough?</p>	<p>The existing contract commenced in March 2010 and is for the provision a car club service for a two year period. It contains a number of monitoring clauses. The contract provides the council with the option to extend for a 12 month period or periods.</p> <p>The council is currently considering its options in advance of March 2012.</p> <p>It is worth noting that Streetcar very recently merged with Zipcar; the existing contract is currently being novated to Zipcar.</p>