

Item 11 –Cess Pool Service Review

The attached report was considered by the Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee on 23 November 2023. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee (23 November 2023, Minute 38)

The Head of Direct Services presented the report, which set out the service review of the cess pool emptying service, and recommended its cessation. This was a non-statutory service for domestic and commercial customers, and had historically struggled to generate profit, despite frequent usage. The service was unable to secure profitable jobs in competition with the private sector. The service consisted of a single cesspool tanker, one driver, and one operator. A pre-MOT test investigation had shown that the tanker would fail in nearly every area, and would require significant investment to remain operable.

In response to questions, the officer explained that there were a number of private cesspool services within the district, so the termination of the service would not negatively impact existing customers. Only one other local authority across Kent, Surrey, and Sussex maintained a cesspool service, though they were also reviewing the service with a view to end it. Communications would be issued to existing customers to help them migrate to new providers. These would focus on promoting local services.

Resolved: that it be recommended to Cabinet that Option 2 – Cease the Cesspool Service, as detailed in the report, be approved.