

## OPTIONS FOR INVESTIGATION

The following bullet points set out some of the options that the Reference Group felt might be worthy of further consideration. The first category sets out those options which the Reference Group wished to see investigated further, the second category indicates those options that the Reference Group did not wish to see pursued at the present time. The options have not been fully evaluated, nor are they being recommended and many have not been discussed with the interested parties.

### Options for further Investigation

The following have been identified by the Reference Group for further investigation. A report will be made to the Group's next meeting setting out further details in respect of each of the options.

- (a) Divide the existing contracts into smaller cohesive groups
- (b) Set up specialist contracts, such as for aboricultural work or sports grounds
- (c) MKC to pass its maintenance works to the MK Parks Trust )
- (d) MKPT to pass its works to MKC )
- (e) MKPT and MKC to jointly tender works, perhaps involving other bodies such as CNT, the hospital and the Open University
- (f) Increase charges for usage where appropriate and re-invest income to provide higher quality facilities (e.g. sports facilities)
- (g) Form a joint venture company with existing contractor(s) - perhaps sharing profit to reinvest in the landscape infrastructure
- (h) Investigate integration of "Client" and "Contractor" functions/duties in part or whole
- (i) Look to return to the "good old days" - with individual groundskeepers for parks, sports & recreation grounds or playing fields or local "caretaking" staff responsible for their own "patch"

- (j) Develop sponsorship opportunities to enhance services (this will not be investigated as part of the best value process but will be kept under consideration for when opportunities arise, subject to any monies received being ring fenced for landscape maintenance purposes)

### **Options not being Pursued at this Stage**

- ~~Private Finance Initiatives (PFI's) to be explored~~
- ? ~~Sell off or give away "landscaped" areas to local householders this could be fenced in, or not. This would give the maintenance responsibility to the householder~~
- ? ~~Encourage "Community Gardening" householders may wish to "adopt" a local piece of land and enhance its maintenance. This may also develop "civic pride"~~
- ? ~~Amalgamate the area based contracts into one~~
- ? ~~Devolve maintenance to community groups (such as local co-operatives or residents groups), sports clubs or to parish/town/neighbourhood councils~~
- ? ~~Seek tenders with neighbouring authorities to get better economies of scale~~
- ? ~~Set up a "Super Trust" to manage all landscaped areas in the Borough, or just the "city" this could also undertake "private" work to improve its efficiencies~~
- ? ~~Form a consortium to manage landscape maintenance across all sectors in the borough and perhaps beyond~~
- ? ~~Keep things as they are (status quo)~~
- ? ~~Minor changes to contracts to improve quality and obtain continuous improvement~~
- ? ~~Enlist the assistance of "offenders" (Community Service) to enhance landscaped areas~~
- ? ~~"Externalise" landscape maintenance functions (more than present up to all)~~
- ~~"Internalise" landscape maintenance functions (more than present up to all)~~