

Exception Report for goods and services

1. Background

- 1.1. After reviewing an initial proposal, WMPC agreed to role all grounds maintenance works into a single three year contract on 26 September 2022. Some changes have been suggested and other questions raised, but as at 2 March, a final schedule of works has not been agreed.
- 1.2. As this is now March, there is insufficient time to request quotes from different suppliers to demonstrate value for money.

2. Proposal

- 2.1. **It is proposed** that following Financial Regulation 17.1, Wickham Market Parish Council approve a suspension of Financial Regulation 10.2 for Grounds Maintenance work scheduled below only and for 2023 only.
- 2.2. **It is proposed** that Wickham Market Parish approve Suffolk Coastal Norse (and from July, East Suffolk Services) to continue with grounds maintenance to the existing schedule for:
 - 2.2.1. Wickham Market Cemetery maintenance scheduled in the Norse Grounds Maintenance contract dated January 2020
 - 2.2.2. The following additional works carried out in 2022:
 - Wickham Market Cemetery paddock grass cutting
 - Wickham Market Village Hall playing field grass cutting
 - Simons Cross Playing field grass cutting
 - The Church Pightle Green grass cutting
 - The Village Hall Play Area hedge cutting

3. Benefits

- 3.1. Wickham Market Parish Council have experience working with Suffolk Coastal Norse and are satisfied with the levels of service
- 3.2. This proposal provides continuity of service
- 3.3. As is no longer sufficient time to engage another provider for the 2023 growing season this proposal discharges Wickham Market Parish Council's essential grounds maintenance obligations.

4. Disadvantages

- 4.1. There will be no demonstration of value for money, however, Norse have in the past quoted for work at a competitive rate.