

SECTION A

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. The Contract for Ground Maintenance contributes to a strategy for achieving certain policy aims and objectives for the management and maintenance of parks, open spaces, children's play areas, (and potentially cemeteries, allotments) and other amenity areas within the boundaries of the town of Newbury. The main operations involved are turf maintenance, tree, shrub and hedge maintenance, (grave maintenance), weed control, litter control, provision and maintenance of bedding schemes, maintenance and marking out of sports pitches, maintenance of changing rooms, inspection and maintenance of play areas and play equipment, certain cleansing services, maintenance of exterior furniture and signs, landscape construction and arboricultural works, (chapel cleaning and cemetery record keeping).
2. The provision of parks and open spaces is of particular significance with regard to the environment, both in terms of enhancing the landscape and in providing areas for relaxation. The Employer's participation in the Britain in Bloom and Cemetery of the Year competition is an indication of its commitment to the quality of life issues and the promotion of the town, and the Contractor will be expected to share the Employer's commitment in these matters and to demonstrate his approach. Allotments offer environmental benefits, enhancing the landscape, providing areas for relaxation, growing fresh vegetables, exercise and wildlife habitat. Cemeteries are a particularly sensitive aspect of open space and need special treatment accordingly.
3. The Employer's aims and objectives for this contract can be summarised as:
 - **TREES** - to maintain and create a healthy and visually attractive tree stock.
 - **AMENITY** - to improve and maintain the visual attractiveness of the environment with due regard to the health and safety of facility users and visitors.
 - **RECREATION** - to provide and maintain a safe recreational resource for sporting groups, clubs, individuals and other users. Implicit in this is the objective of maintaining a high standard of playing facility.
 - **CONSERVATION** - to protect and expand the habitat for all species of plant and animal life currently found in the Town.
 - **ENVIRONMENT** - to promote a better local environment by reducing the levels of pesticides used and increase the level of organic and non-organic material recycled. To comply with all legislation governing the disposal of green and other waste in accordance with environmental legislation.
 - **HERITAGE** - to maintain and preserve the historic and local importance of parks and open spaces and their contribution to the life of the area.

- **EDUCATION** - to develop parks and amenity open space as an educational resource for residents and visitors, i.e. creating an environmental awareness.
 - **SUSTAINABILITY** - to develop parks, open space and allotments as environments which meet current needs without compromising those of future generations.
 - **CHILDREN'S PLAY** - to create a wide range of safe and stimulating play opportunities for the development and growth of all children.
 - **HEALTHY LIVING** - to further healthy living through the provision of facilities that encourage exercise and relaxation in a clean environment.
 - **PARTNERSHIP** - to build upon the contractual relationship to create a genuine working partnership with the Contractor that will be of benefit to both parties, that shares the value of any improvements to the Services or the means of delivery, and improves the enjoyment of the users of the Services.
4. The Contractor in pursuance of the above will have due regard for all legislation, relevant standards, good and accepted horticultural practice, the requirements defined in the Specifications and public/user health and safety. The Contractor must also ensure that its operations are being carried out at the appropriate skill level.
5. It is the overall objective of the Employer to maintain facilities, amenity areas and other horticultural features to the highest possible standard that resources will allow. It should be recognised that horticultural maintenance is a means to an end and not an end in itself. The Employer's all embracing objective is to create recreational opportunity in a positive way, recognising that people need to express themselves through leisure activities, thus increasing quality of life and environmental awareness. The Contractor, through its contractual obligations should be mindful of the basic philosophy as defined above and ensure that this is reflected in the standard of work delivered to the Employer and, most importantly, in its Method Statements.