

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD: 29 NOVEMBER 2012

Start: 7.30pm

Finish: 9.05pm

PRESENT: Ashcroft (Chairman)

Councillors: Blane Gibson
Baldock J Hodson
Bell Jones
Cropper Kay
Dereli O'Toole
Mrs R Evans Pendleton
Furey Pope
Fillis Savage

Officers: Deputy Borough Treasurer (Mr M Kostrzewski)
Programme Works Manager (Mr R Hague)
Assistant Legal Services Manager (Mr L Gardner)
Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Mrs C A Jackson)

In attendance
Councillor Westley (Portfolio Holder Resources and Transformation)

30. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were proffered on behalf of the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration.

31. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Members noted the termination of membership of Councillors Gagen and Moran and the appointment of Councillors Dereli and Furey for this meeting only thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

32. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

34. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of a Party Whip.

35. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2012 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. RELEVANT MINUTES OF CABINET

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 November 2012.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 November 2012 be noted.

37. CALL IN ITEMS

Consideration was given to the following two called-in items.

38. CALL IN ITEM - RISK MANAGEMENT

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor which advised that a decision in relation to the above item (minute 65 refers) had received a call in requisition signed by five members of the Committee. The report set out the reason given for the call in, together with a different decision put forward by the five Members concerned on the requisition notice.

In the ensuing discussion the following comments/questions were noted in relation to:

- The change in the presentation of the Key Risk Register information, as set down at Appendix A, particularly the use of the “cube” risk matrix.
- Methodology used to feed into the process by service areas.
- Managing the implementation of MSRs – effects and reporting mechanisms.
- Descriptions and terminology used within the information presented.
- Emerging potential risks, particularly those as a result of changes in legislation.
- Identification/presentation, performance monitoring and managing concerns in the longer term.

The Deputy Treasurer responded to questions referencing details contained in the Borough Treasurer’s report. He explained that the risk management register is designed to be a fluid document and will, consequentially, reflect risk movement up and down. It was explained that serious risks would be flagged and regular update reports on particularly areas would come forward through the established reporting processes. He further reported that a risk management training session, open to all Members had been arranged to take place prior to the meeting of Audit and Governance on 29 January 2013, on the risk management process.

RESOLVED: That the Committee does not wish to ask for a different decision and the report considered by Cabinet be noted and endorsed.

39. PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSING CAPITAL INVESTMENT - PROCUREMENT OF KITCHEN AND BATHROOM REFURBISHMENT CONTRACTS

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor which advised that a decision in relation to the above item (minute 71 refers) had received a call in requisition signed by five members of the Committee. The report set out the reason given for the call in, together with a different decision put forward by the five Members concerned on the requisition notice.

In the ensuing discussion the following comments/questions were noted in relation to:

- Quality of Kitchens to be installed.
- Contribution by tenants to the decision making process.
- Kitchens of void properties – void standard
- Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group) – role/reporting mechanisms.

The Programme Works Manager attended the meeting and gave an overview of the processes that had led to the selection of the kitchen cabinets supplier and responded to questions referencing details as contained within the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration report.

The Chairman made an undertaking to speak with the Leader in respect of the points raised by a Member relating to role/reporting mechanisms of the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group).

RESOLVED: That the Committee does not wish to ask for a different decision.

40. REVENUE BUDGET MID YEAR REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer which provided a projection on the General and Housing Revenue Accounts to the end of the financial year.

Members raised questions/comments in relation to:

- Staff efficiency savings – role of agency staff.
- New payroll service – transfer of the operation.
- Investment Centre – involvement of Members; initiatives to seek an improved outturn financial position.
- Empty rates liability charges – demolition/transfer of some units.

RESOLVED: That the financial position of the Revenue Accounts be noted.

(Notes: 1. Councillor Fillis left the meeting during consideration of this item and was not present for the remaining items of business.
2. Councillor Baldock left the meeting following consideration of this item and was not present for the remaining items of business.)

43. REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND MID YEAR REVIEW 2012/13

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer that detailed the revised Capital Programme for 2012/2013 and provided an overview on the progress against it at the mid-year point.

During the ensuing discussion Members raised questions/queries relating to:

- Strategic Asset Management Plan – costs incurred so far; strategy related to land sales.
- Right to Buy sales – discount cap changes.
- Use of 106 monies.
- Windows and Doors Programme – adjustments.
- Affordable Housing Development Project – timescale adjustments.

RESOLVED: That the Revised Capital Programme and progress against it at the mid-year point be noted.

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Chairman