

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Safer and Stronger Communities)

Date: 14th November 2011

Subject: Response to the Scrutiny Review of the ALMO Business Centre Leeds

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. At its meeting in June 2011, the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board agreed its final report following a review of the establishment of a Shared Service Centre for the Leeds Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMOs). A copy of this report is attached.
2. The recommendations arising from the Scrutiny review referred to progress reports being brought back to Scrutiny in relation to the operation of the new Shared Service Centre. The recommendations were as follows:

Recommendation 1

That the relevant Scrutiny Board monitor the actual key savings and efficiencies achieved as a result of the establishment of a Shared Service Centre and that the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submit an initial report on this matter to the relevant Scrutiny Board no later than December 2011.

Recommendation 2

That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods provide details to the relevant Scrutiny Board in December 2011 on progress in transferring services to the Shared Service Centre in 2011/12 and the conditions that have been applied to measure the outcomes of each service transfer.

Recommendation 3

That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods provide the relevant Scrutiny Board with a further benchmarking report towards the year end 2011/12 following completion of the transfer of services to the Shared Service Centre to identify what effect it has had in reducing costs and increasing value for money.

Recommendation 4

That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submit a report to the relevant Scrutiny Board in December 2011 on the progress and outcome of the introduction of single Service Level Agreements and details of the savings and benefits that have accrued as a consequence.

Recommendation 5

That the decision making process relating to the operation of the Shared Service Centre be referred by the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee to monitor and ensure that proper and transparent arrangements are in place.

3. The Shared Service Centre has now formally adopted the operating name of ALMO Business Centre Leeds (ABCL). An update on progress in implementing the key reforms to the 3 ALMO model in Leeds, which included the creation of the ALMO Business Centre Leeds, was reported to the Executive Board on 2nd November 2011.
4. A copy of the Executive Board report is attached for Members' consideration as this report also responds to the issues and recommendations arising from the Scrutiny review.
5. Officers from the Environment and Neighbourhoods directorate will also be attending today's meeting to address any further questions from Members.

Recommendations

6. Members are asked to:
 - a) Note the attached ALMO Review update report to the Executive Board
 - b) Determine whether any further Scrutiny involvement on this matter is required.

Background documents

7. None used