



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Central and Corporate Functions)

Date: 6th April 2009

Subject: Draft Report – Procurement of Services Inquiry

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on 9th June 2008, Scrutiny Board (Central and Corporate Functions) resolved to undertake an Inquiry into the procurement of services. The Board was particularly interested in how the authority measures the value for money received from external service providers; how quality is ensured; and how the ethical framework of the Council is translated within contracts.
- 1.2 The Board's starting point was to better understand the business case for the proposed development of a One Council Commissioning Framework and particularly to understand how this Framework would address elected Members perennial concerns over contract management.
- 1.3 The Board has now produced a draft final report which includes a number of recommendations.

2.0 Consultation

- 2.1 Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 14.3 states that "where a Scrutiny Board is considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director(s) prior to finalising its recommendations. The Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing any such advice" To this end Councillor Brett has offered the advice below.

Recommendation 1

I have my doubts about what such detailed scrutiny would achieve. Without evidence of failure or mismanagement scrutiny should be more strategic.

Recommendations 2, 3, 4 and 6

I accept.

Recommendation 5

I would worry that a 'certificate of competency' is bureaucracy which is not needed or helpful. I accept building capacity through RIEP.

2.2 Once the Board publishes its final report it will be presented to the Executive Board for a formal response.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 The Board is requested to:-

- (i) Agree the Board's final report and recommendations.
- (ii) Submit the report to the Executive Board for a formal response.

Background papers

None