

SCRUTINY BOARD (RESOURCES AND COUNCIL SERVICES)

MONDAY, 23RD JULY, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor P Grahame in the Chair

Councillors S Bentley, N Dawson,
R Grahame, J Hardy, C Macniven ,
M Rafique (substitute) ,G
Wilkinson(substitute) and R Wood.

15 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the July meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Resources and Council Services).

16 Late Items

There were no formal late items although the Board did receive additional information in relation to the Community Right to Challenge Process Flow Chart (Minute 22 refers)

17 Declarations of Interest

In accordance with paragraphs 19-20 of the Members Code of Conduct, the following declarations were made by Members who felt it was in the public interest to do so: Councillor Ron Grahame in relation to Agenda item 7, Environment and Neighbourhoods Appraisal and Engagement Results as a Member of the GMB Union (minute 20 refers).

18 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Lowe and Councillor J L Carter.

Notification had been received for Councillor M Rafique to substitute for Councillor A Lowe and Councillor G Wilkinson to substitute for J L Carter

19 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED -That the previous meeting held on 25th June 2012 be confirmed as a correct record subject to an amendment to show that Cllr D Collins was in attendance.

20 Environment and Neighbourhoods Appraisal and Engagement Results

The Director of Environments and Neighbourhoods presented a report providing the current position in terms of appraisals and employee engagement in Environments and Neighbourhoods.

The following officers were in attendance;

Neil Evans – Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods
Susan Upton – Head of Waste
Helen Freeman – Head of Waste Management
Joss Ivory – head of Human Resources - Development

In brief summary, the main issues of discussion were

- results for different services
- an explanation why targets have not been met in terms of service context
- why different approaches to appraisal have been used in some areas
- action to be taken to improve performance
- the role of senior management in changing the culture of the directorate
- the use of agency staff and overtime (additional information was requested on this area)

(Cllr Rafique joined the meeting during this item at 10.20 am)

RESOLVED – To note the contents of the report and that the additional information requested be provided.

21 The consideration of call-in with respect to procurement decisions

The Chief Officer, Corporate Procurement and Public Private Partnership Unit submitted a report outlining the programme put in place to ensure greater corporate visibility of when contracts end and the timeline for future procurements to ensure successful planning, better allocation of resources and to support service directorate commissioning. The programme also seeks to more effectively support decision making processes around Call In.

The following officers were in attendance;

David Outram - Chief Officer, Corporate Procurement and Public Private Partnership Unit
Philippa Toner – Senior Executive Manager, Project and Technical Management –PPPU

In summary, the main areas of discussion were:

- An understanding of the Assurance and Compliance workstream which seeks to develop and implement strategies to promote appropriate levels

of consistency and to ensure compliance with relevant policies and procedures.

- the procurement calendar, which enables the planning and prioritisation of future projects.
- the resource planning tool which ensures projects are properly assessed, prioritised, and allocated within available resource to ensure they are delivered to time, budget and required quality level.
- a scoping document to determine the scale and complexity of each procurement project, including the impact for elected Members
- measures to ensure that the call-in process is recognised as a valuable aspect of decision making, ensuring appropriate timescales are incorporated into each procurement project.
- the Transforming Procurement Programme and the initiatives undertaken through the programme to ensure greater visibility of when contracts end and the timeline for future procurements

In addition discussion was held on Lawnswood incinerator and Member training in relation to PFI schemes

(Cllrs Bentley, Mcniven, Wilkinson and Rafique left the meeting at 12 noon)

RESOLVED - To note the contents of the report and the change programme being undertaken to improve the council's approach to procurement.

22 Community Right to Challenge

The Chief Officer, Corporate Procurement and Public Private Partnership Unit submitted a report seeking the views of Scrutiny Board (Resources and Council Services) on the proposed process flow chart for the management of Community Right to Challenge 'expressions of interests'.

The following officers were in attendance;

David Outram - Chief Officer, Corporate Procurement and Public Private Partnership Unit

Philippa Toner – Senior Executive Manager, Project and Technical Management –PPPU

RESOLVED –

- (i) to endorse the process flow chart subject to the Executive Board being the decision making body at the pre – procurement stage rather than the Director of Resources.
- (ii) that the views of the Scrutiny Board be incorporated into the report to be submitted to Executive Board on this matter

23 Work Schedule

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a copy of the Board's work schedule. Copies of the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 20th June 2012 were attached for consideration along with a copy of the Forward Plan.

A discussion on potential work items was held.

RESOLVED –

- (i) To request information in relation to Member consultation on PFI projects
- (ii) To request that the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development hold further discussions with Cllr R Grahame on the appropriateness of his request for Scrutiny in relation to HR matters
- (iii) To invite the Executive Member for Environment to the October Board meeting
- (iv) To receive an update in October on Commercial Services
- (v) To note the contents of the Forward Plan and Executive Board minutes

24 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note the date of the next meeting as Monday 3rd September 2012 at 10am

(All meetings to take place in the Civic Hall, Leeds, commencing at 10.00am)

(The meeting concluded at 12.30 pm)