

CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 6TH FEBRUARY, 2013

Present – Councillors Spencer (Chairman), Gillies (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Ayub, A. Connell, Darvesh, Mrs Fairclough, Francis, Greenhalgh, Hayes, A. Ibrahim, Iqbal and J. Walsh.

Also in attendance

Councillor Morris	-	Executive Cabinet Member - Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Peacock	-	Cabinet Member for Sport, Libraries, Youth and Culture
Councillor Zaman	-	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Community Services
Mr. S. Arnfield	-	Deputy Chief Executive
Ms. H. Gorman	-	Borough Solicitor
Mr. J. Rowlands	-	Assistant Director Customer Services
Ms. J. Spencer	-	Head of Service
Mr. M. Veigas	-	Assistant Director Community Services
Mrs V. Ridge	-	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Councillor Spencer in the Chair.

27. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th November, 2012 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be signed as a correct record.

28. CALL IN OF THE SIX MONTHLY LIBRARY REVIEW REPORT

The Committee were advised that following a meeting of the Executive Cabinet Member Leaders Portfolio six members of

the Conservative Group had exercised their right to Call-In the decision in respect of the Six Monthly Library Review Report, in accordance with Article 5 of the Council's Constitution.

A summary of the report together with an extract of the Executive Cabinet Member Leaders Portfolio minutes had been circulated to members of this Committee prior to the meeting.

Members were also reminded of the action options available to the Committee, as detailed in the Council's Constitution.

Councillor Greenhalgh explained the background as to why the decision had been called-in.

A discussion ensued with regard to the content of the report and the following observations were made, viz:-

- Could an assurance be given that the alternative proposals were working;
- General concerns regarding the statistics provided in the report especially in terms of neighbourhood book collections; active borrowers; library loans; and library visitors;
- Had the savings identified as part of the new proposals been achieved;
- The plans for sustainability and promotion of neighbourhood collections;
- The Heaton Neighbourhood Collection was working well;
- It was acknowledged that the culture of libraries was changing;
- In the event of any potential future closures could in-depth background be undertaken prior to any decisions being made; and
- Was it clear that the review had identified the correct libraries which had closed.

Resolved – That the decision of the Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio in relation to the Six Monthly Library Review be noted.

29. MONITORING OF DECISIONS

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which detailed the progress of the decisions taken by this Scrutiny Committee.

Members enquired as to whether any information had been sought regarding the issue of problems with the tram operating system within Greater Manchester. Councillor Morris advised that he was not aware of any potential problems, however, he would raise the issue and report back to members.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

30. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2012/2013

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which set out details of the updated work programme for 2012/2013.

Resolved – That the updated work programme be approved.

31. UPDATE ON THE ICT CONTRACT

Mr. S. Arnfield, Deputy Chief Executive gave a presentation which provided an update with regard to the new ICT Contract.

Members were advised that the ICT re-tender was a partnership between Bolton Council, Wigan Council, Wigan and Leigh Housing and Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust and the process began over two years ago.

It was explained that there were three final bidders and following a detailed evaluation and tendering process, in December, 2012, Agilisys were appointed as the preferred bidder and on 30th January, 2013 the contract was signed for a seven year period.

In terms of the transaction period members were advised that, as from 1st July, 2013, Agilisys would take over the provision of ICT services to Bolton as the current Fujitsu Contract ended. Further details were also provided in relation to contract management and the opportunities which the new contract would provide which included an annual saving of £500,000.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

32. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENTS STRATEGIC BUDGET 2013/2014

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which outlined the proposed revenue budget and capital programme for the Chief Executive's Department and Central Corporate Accounts.

The report advised that the original budget for 2013/2014 was £16.470 million which was a net increase of £4.08 million on the original 2012/2013 budget of £12.390 million after taking into account the proposed savings of £1.961 million. An analysis of the budgets for the Chief Executives Department, by areas of activity, could be seen in Appendix B to the report.

With regard to benefits and other corporate accounts, the original budget for 2013/2014 was £3.441 million which was an increase of £0.464 million on the original budget for 2012/2013 of £2.977 million.

In terms of capital, it was explained that the 2013/2014 to 2014/2015 Capital Programme totalled £11.603 million of which £6.833 million related to 2013/2014 and details of this were provided in Appendix E to the report. However, it was pointed out that the Cabinet at its meeting on 3rd September, 2012 agreed that the overall Capital Programme would be subject to a further report in January/February, 2013 to consider any further key investments or amendments to the Programme which, therefore, could change as a result of the appraisal.

The report also advised that savings of £4.0 million was required of the Chief Executive's Department over a two year period commencing 1st April, 2013 and an amount of £1.961 million of savings had been proposed for 2013/2014.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

33. AGMA BUSINESS SUMMARY

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which set out the appointments made by the Council to the various joint authorities and also gave a summary of the business considered at authority meetings.

Members were reminded that part of the remit of this Scrutiny Committee was to monitor and review and, where appropriate, make recommendations regarding the work of outside organisations. The report focused on one aspect of this, in terms of the added value by the AGMA bodies, including AGMA Executive Board, The Combined Authority, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority and Transport for Greater Manchester Committee.

Resolved –That the updated position be noted.

34. MEMBERS BUSINESS

The Committee received the extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

- (a) The Cabinet held on 17th December, 2012 and 14th and 28th January, 2013;
- (b) The Executive Cabinet Member Leaders Portfolio held on 13th and 17th December, 2012 and 4th February, 2013;
- (c) Human Resources Policy Development Group held on 10th December, 2012;
- (d) Sports, Libraries and Culture Policy Development Group held on 11th December, 2012 and 9th January, 2013; and
- (e) Corporate, Resources and Strategy Policy Development Group held on 9th January, 2013.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

(The meeting started at 5.30 p.m. and finished at 6.30 p.m.)