

EFFICIENCY AND PERFORMANCE SUB (FINANCE) COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 16 April 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Efficiency and Performance Sub (Finance) Committee
held at Guildhall, EC2 on Tuesday, 16 April 2019 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Jeremy Mayhew (Chairman)
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark (Deputy Chairman)
Randall Anderson
Alderman Robert Howard
Paul Martinelli
Deputy Philip Woodhouse

Officers:

John Barradell	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
John Cater	-
Peter Kane	- Chamberlain
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Chamberlain's Department
Kate Smith	- Town Clerk's Department
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Economic Development
David Farnsworth	- Town Clerk's
Karen Atkinson	- Chamberlain's Department
Tom Conniffe	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Christopher Hill, Deputy Hugh Morris and Ian Seaton.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED - That the public minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2019 be agreed as an accurate record.

4. **WORK PROGRAMME FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk which set out the work plan for future meetings.

Members stressed that, given it was vital for the Sub-Committee to focus on those departments that were likely to be facing the most acute challenges during the Fundamental Review, officers should update the forward plan in light of the discussions and decisions taken at the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee's Away Day in July.

RESOLVED – That the Sub-Committee notes the report.

5. **CORPORATE AND BUSINESS PLANNING UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee received a Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy & Performance.

Members thanked the Head of Corporate Strategy & Performance for the update and provided feedback on the high-level summary business plan, most notably;

- Officers should review the template two-pager to include wording that would better serve to 'force' debate at Committees as to what to prioritise. The Chairman added that it was critical that, as pressures on the Corporation's finances began to intensify due to the large projects coming on stream, Members confronted the need to make choices; any wording needed to express 'if you do this, this is what you'll achieve in terms of outcomes' and offer real choices not "shroud waving".

The proposed new cycle in 2020, where scrutiny sessions would take place after Policy & Resources' confirmation of Members' priorities, would provide time for any final changes to the departmental high-level summary Business Plans to be made ahead of their submission to Committees for approval; this, Members noted, was a positive step, but it needed Chief Officers to be proactive in ensuring that choices about prioritisation were presented for Members consideration. The Deputy Chairman added that the Sub-Committee does not set the Corporation's priorities, but it does monitor how priorities are being met.

- Officers needed to more clearly distinguish and separate out areas where debate is needed
- Highlight changes from the previous year; the business plan needed to be a living document, with its "evolution" transparently presented to officers and Members alike.
- Members noted that some departments (e.g. CCS) won't have much room for debate as priority, clearly, follows risk. Others will need to be longer, so a one size-fits-all approach should be avoided.

- The Deputy Chairman was concerned that reference to the Capital Budget was missing; capital bids needed to be aligned with the business and corporate plan cycles.

In conclusion, Members were not yet fully convinced by the proposals. The two-pager, at least in its current state, was “too flat” and didn’t do enough to drive choices. In light of the Fundamental Review, Chief Officers had a real challenge here and it was critical that this process was robust and added real value to both officers and Members. The Head of Corporate Strategy & Performance would take these thoughts away and come back with amended proposals to the Chairman via email before submitting a further Report to Members.

RESOLVED – that the Sub-Committee noted the Report

6. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were no items of urgent business.

8. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

9. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED - That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2019 be agreed as an accurate record.

10. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM NON-PUBLIC MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Sub-Committee received a Report of the Town Clerk.

11. **DEPARTMENTAL MONITORING**

11.1 **Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness Health Checks City Bridge Trust (CBT)**

The Sub-Committee received a Report of the Chief Grants Officer and Director of City Bridge Trust (CBT) concerning Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness Health Checks for the CBT.

11.2 **Economy, efficiency and effectiveness health check - Economic Development Office (EDO)**

The Sub-Committee received a Report of the Director of the Economic Development Office (EDO) concerning the Economy, efficiency and effectiveness health check for the EDO.

12. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 12.50 pm

Chairman

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