

Committee: Finance Committee	Date: 8 December 2020
Subject: Public Report of the work of the Sub-Committees	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: John Cater, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

On 19 July 2016, the Finance Committee agreed that, in addition to draft minutes of Sub-Committee meetings, short reports be provided to advise the Committee of the main issues considered by the Sub-Committees at recent meetings. This report sets out some of the main public issues considered by the following Sub Committees since 10th November:

Digital Services Sub-Committee – 16th November 2020

MEMBER IT PROVISION POLICY

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain on the Member IT Provision Policy.

The Sub-Committee was informed that the report proposes a new Policy for the provision of IT equipment to support the 125 elected Members of the City of London. The policy seeks to clarify some of the legacy support offered to Members, such as the use of printers and broadband.

The Sub-Committee was further advised that this policy and report was written before the security updates, and as such, Members should make a note of this. This was followed by another member who asked if the provision and rules around the use of printers can be relaxed so that Members who do not live within the Square Mile can benefit from this given that in COVID-19, they are not allowed to come into the Guildhall in order to print any documents. The Chairman responded that the City of London is working to make better the use of electronic papers, rather than printing large volumes of papers.

Another Member commented that in light of the virtual meeting, he has resorted to using multiple screens, and as such, he is not using any printed agenda packs; however, he raised concerns that once the meetings are in person again, the use of multiple screens may not be possible.

The Deputy Chairman commented that there are multiple tools available in terms of working from a portal, but there is a need to look at the costs and security aspect of such tools. This will allow Members to access papers both from their devices as well as the City of London devices. This has been replicated by other local authorities. The Chairman noted that there is a need to improve the Member's experience around the digital journey.

The Sub-Committee agreed that the report can be approved subject to looking at the period of renewal on the devices.

RESOLVED – That the Sub-Committee approved the Member's IT Provision Policy and approved the actions to deliver the £40K per annum savings on Member's IT services.

Corporate Asset-Sub Committee – 18th November 2020

GUILDHALL COMPLEX - ROAD MAP FOR RETURN TO THE OFFICE

The Sub-committee received a report of the City Surveyor setting out lessons learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic, outlining a re-shaping of current working practices and summarising work that was being done in the immediate short term and setting out a Road Map for a return to the workplace.

The City Surveyor remarked on the report having been written some time ago, with the world having now changed. The report had been presented to the Sub-committee to give an idea of the work had been ongoing as part of the immediate response to Covid-19. There was now an opportunity to look at what has happened and learn how the City Corporation can work differently moving forward as part of a return to the workplace.

Members acknowledged it was a fast-changing world at present and that a future paper would offer a much more accurate picture on proposals around any return to the workplace. The Chairman accepted that it would remain a holding position until it was known from Government how the country would be moving forward.

A Member referred to a recent report that had suggested home working could lead to people fostering prejudice and create more racial tension. It was proposed an equalities survey be included as part of any roadmap for a return the office.

RESOLVED, that the report be received and its content noted.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the report.

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