

Committee	Date:
Establishment Committee	16 September 2016
Subject: Comptroller and City Solicitor's Departmental Business Plan 2016-2019 Progress report as at 30 June 2016	Public
Report of: Michael Cogher – Comptroller and City Solicitor	For Information
Report author: Nick Senior – Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department	

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of progress toward achieving the strategic aims and objectives of the Comptroller and City Solicitor's Departmental Business Plan 2016-2019.

Progress toward achieving the strategic aims and objectives are as follows:

- a) To manage resources effectively to provide efficient and high quality legal services.

It is anticipated that the department will remain within its local risk budget at the year-end including achieving Service Based Review savings of £169k and on this basis will deliver the overall total £377k SBR savings.

Following an external full assessment on 13-15 June 2016 the department was re-accredited with the Law Society's LEXCEL quality assurance standard. The assessment identified a high level of compliance and many areas of excellent practice.

The department's strategic risks are regularly reviewed and updated. The risk relating to the management of legal risk has been reduced from amber to green due to level of compliance with robust departmental risk management procedures.

- b) To tailor our services so as to meet the needs of, and add value to the transformation and modernisation agenda and be an exemplar of innovative good practice so as to combine "the best of the old with the best of the new"

The Information Management Project has progressed toward procuring and implementing a replacement legal case management system which it is anticipated will deliver smarter leaner processes, improved client information and communication and facilitate a significant shift to paper light working.

Lean system reviews have been undertaken, recommended process improvements agreed and the proposals are currently being implemented.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Establishment Committee approved the Business Plan on 19 April 2016 this report provides an update on the current status of and progress toward achieving the strategic aims and objectives of the Comptroller and City Solicitor's Departmental Business Plan 2016-2019.

Current Position

2. The improvement objectives are:

a) To manage resources effectively to provide efficient and quality legal services

A1. Achieve the Service Based Review (SBR) target.

The departmental SBR target for 2016/17 is £169k out of a total of £377k for the period 2014-2018. Due to the increased demand for legal support and advice it was not possible to achieve the allocated £49k saving in staffing costs and this saving was instead loaded into the external income target. The 2016/17 income projection at period 5 is forecast to meet the 2016/17 £169k target and the service will therefore meet the overall SBR target of £377k.

A2. Achieve re-accreditation to the Law Society re-structured LEXCEL standard version 6.

The service undertook a full assessment against the LEXCEL standard resulting in re-accreditation with a high level of compliance and with many areas of good practice identified.

b) To tailor our services so as to meet the needs of, and add value to the transformation and modernisation agenda and be an exemplar of innovative good practice so as to "combine the best of the old with the best of the new"

B1. Complete a major information management project.

Significant progress has been made toward procuring and implementing a replacement legal case management and electronic records management systems, the project is on course to meet the target timescale.

It is anticipated that the systems will facilitate smarter leaner processes and will deliver improved client information and communication, excellent standards of records management and will facilitate paper light working.

B2. Undertake an in-depth review of our work processes in order to maximise efficiency.

Lean system reviews have been undertaken, recommended process improvements agreed and tabulated and the proposals are currently being implemented. An efficiency success evaluation will be undertaken.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

3. The service provides effective legal advice and support to enable service departments to achieve specific corporate and strategic aims and to protect the City's interests. The Business Plan aligns to the City's key policy priorities as follows:-

KPP1 – Supporting and promoting the UK financial based services sector throughout the world for the benefit of the wider UK economy.

KPP2 – Improving the value for money of our services within the constraints of reduced resources.

4. The Departmental Performance Indicators (and current position) are listed in Appendix A.

Finance

5. Based on the current income forecast the service will keep within its Local Risk budget at the year end.

Strategic Risk Management

6. Strategic and Operational Risks are reviewed by the Department's Senior Management Team on a monthly basis. The latest strategic risk report is included in a separate report.
7. It should be noted that risk CCS003 Management of Legal Risk been reduced to green status.

Conclusion

8. The department has made solid progress toward achieving the 2016/2017 business plan objectives.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Comptroller & City Solicitor – Performance Indicators 2016/17

Nick Senior

Business Manager, Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department

T: 020 7332 1668

E: nick.senior@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Comptroller & City Solicitor - Performance Indicators (2016/2017)

Ref	Performance Indicator	Target and progress for 2016/2017	Position at 30 June 2016
PI 1	Responses of chairmen of committee to the client care survey give a 'high overall service' rating	Target 98%	<i>Achieved - 100% (December 2015) next survey December 2016</i>
PI 2	Responses of departments to the client care survey give a 'high quality service' rating	Target 98%	<i>Achieved – 99% (December 2015) next survey December 2016</i>
PI 3	Responses of departments to the client care survey give a 'staff keep you well informed' rating	Target 93%	<i>Achieved - 96% (December 2015) Next survey December 2016</i>
PI 4	Justified complaints against total caseload	Target – maximum of 5 per annum	<i>On target 0 complaints received</i>
PI 5	Maintain LEXCEL accreditation	LEXCEL accreditation achieved	<i>Accreditation achieved June 2016</i>
PI 6	File reviews completed in a timely fashion	Target - 90% within one month	<i>Achieved 85% 5% below target</i>
PI 7	Inactivity on live files in 6 months	Target – Not more than 15%	<i>Achieved 11% (at 1st qtr) 4% above target</i>
PI 8	Inactivity on live files in 3 months	Target – Not more than 20%	<i>Achieved 22% (at 1st qtr) 2% below target</i>
PI 9	Individual chargeable hours target	Target 100%	<i>On target for 100%</i>
PI 10	Effectively managing short term sickness absence	Target – Below City short term average	<i>Below target Q1 C&CS 0.92 days CoL average 0.71</i>