

Committee: Finance Committee	Date: 18 October 2016
Subject: Report of the work of the Sub-Committees	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
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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.

Since the last meeting of the Finance Committee, the following Sub-Committees have met:

- Corporate Asset Sub-Committee on 23 September 2016
- Information Technology Sub-Committee on 30 September 2016
- Efficiency and Performance Sub-Committee on 12 October 2016

The Efficiency and Performance Sub-Committee had not met at the time of publishing this agenda and information relating to that meeting will be circulated in an addendum to this report. The main issues considered by the other Sub-Committees in public session were as follows:

Corporate Asset Sub-Committee on 23 September 2016

- The Accommodation and Ways of Working Project was considered. Members commented about the importance of ensuring that the organisational culture and IT systems were appropriate to allow the project to succeed.

Information Technology Sub-Committee on 30 September 2016

- The development of the new IT Strategy, based around the revised Terms of Reference approved at the last Finance Committee
- An update on the performance of the IT Service and the ongoing challenges faced by the Division.

A further report is available which advises of the discussions which took place during the non-public session of these meetings.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. On 19 July 2016, the Finance Committee agreed that future meetings of the Committee should be provided with a report highlighting the main issues which

were considered at recent meetings of the Sub-Committees, in addition to receiving minutes of those meetings.

2. Since the last meeting of the Committee, the following Sub-Committees have met:
 - Corporate Asset Sub-Committee on 23 September 2016
 - Information Technology Sub-Committee on 30 September 2016
 - Efficiency and Performance Sub-Committee on 12 October 2016
3. As noted above, the Efficiency and Performance Sub-Committee had not met at the time of publishing this agenda and information relating to that meeting will be circulated in an addendum to this report.

Corporate Asset Sub-Committee on 23 September 2016

4. At this meeting, Members considered the Accommodation and Ways of Working project, which aimed to modernise working practices, optimise the use of buildings and facilities to provide focus for improvements to our business processes, skills and assets, and enhance the Wellbeing of staff.
5. Members agreed that it would be vital that the organisational culture and, particularly, the IT systems were appropriate to allow new working practices to be adopted in order for the project to succeed. Members also commented that it was important that the pilot of the project was evaluated in such a way that problems caused by the current IT issues were not used as a reason to not proceed with the project.

Information Technology Sub-Committee on 30 September 2016

6. Members discussed the four key proposals of the IT Strategy: buy systems and services rather than build them; use fewer systems more effectively; ensure that systems and services are as secure and compliant as possible; and work to drive out complexity and look to commoditise services to get the best value and highest quality. To achieve this, departments must be encouraged to adapt working practices to allow for the effective use of “off-the-shelf” products and the savings associated with them.
7. The Sub-Committee received a report on the current IT Service performance. There had been a significant amount of work actioned on improving change management, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of incidents relating to changes during July and August. However, incidents caused by a number of issues still needed addressing, including ageing infrastructure and applications, poor monitoring of the network, third party faults (eg. Power outages), and customer dissatisfaction. A considerable effort had been made to improve communication with Members and Officers when incidents did occur, which the Committee appreciated
8. The Sub-Committee received the IT Finance update which sought support for the principle of reviewing the base line of the IT department budget. Although Members were understanding of the need for the budget to reflect spending,

there was reserve over supporting a proposal which did not include complete understanding of the overspend or requirements going forward. One part of controlling spending in the long term was for the IT department to have a greater control on cross departmental spending which impacted on the IT budget.

9. An updated version of this reported is included within the non-public section of the agenda for today's meeting. To address the comments by the Sub-Committee, the report provides complete details of the overspend and requirements going forward.

Implications and further work

10. There are no implications or additional work to be conducted as a result of these discussions, beyond those which were already known.

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