

EFFICIENCY AND PERFORMANCE SUB (FINANCE) COMMITTEE

Friday, 17 February 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Efficiency and Performance Sub (Finance) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Jeremy Mayhew (Chairman)
Deputy Roger Chadwick (Deputy
Chairman)
Randall Anderson
Nigel Challis

Dominic Christian
Sheriff & Alderman Peter Estlin
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Deputy John Tomlinson

Officers:

Christopher Braithwaite	-	Town Clerk's Department
Neil Davies	-	Town Clerk's Department
Richard Horner	-	Town Clerk's Department
Kate Smith	-	Town Clerk's Department
Amanda Thompson	-	Town Clerk's Department
Peter Kane	-	Chamberlain
Christopher Bell	-	Chamberlain's Department
Mark Jarvis	-	Chamberlain's Department
Paul Nagle	-	Chamberlain's Department
Sarah Wall	-	Chamberlain's Department
Paul Wilkinson	-	City Surveyor
Sir Nicholas Kenyon	-	Director of the Barbican Centre
Sandeep Dwesar	-	Barbican Centre

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ian Seaton and Philip Woodhouse.

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 and non-public summary of the meeting held on 30 November 2016 be agreed as an accurate record.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk which set out the outstanding actions from previous meetings of the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED – That the outstanding references be noted and updated as appropriate.

5. **WORK PROGRAMME FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. **EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY PLAN - IMPLEMENTATION**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Chamberlain outlining the next steps to be taken regarding the implementation of the Efficiency and Sustainability Plan.

The Chamberlain advised that the plan needed to be viewed in the context of the overall Medium Term Financial Strategy to have a five year plan with sufficient cashable savings to present a balanced budget for all four funds, and to assist with this context and messaging, the set of core messages on the City of London Corporation's Finances had been reviewed and updated.

The Chamberlain reported that the principles of how the Peer Review programme was anticipated to work had been agreed with the Chief Officer Summit Group, however the actual approach adopted would be revised in-light of the experience gained from the first pilot review. Chief Officers would be invited to suggest key focus areas and approximate timing for Peer Review of their Departments so that a full programme could be developed.

A Member suggested that the reviews should avoid looking at each department individually and aim to be more thematic and cross-cutting so as to be more strategically focussed. It was further suggested that consideration be given to the communicating of the core messages to members during the member Induction programme.

In response to questions the Chamberlain explained that the reviews would be kept relatively light touch and draw on models/approaches developed elsewhere. Each review would seek to identify and utilise an appropriate reference point to help shape the key lines of enquiry. He explained that this process would assist with the embedding of the principle of continuous improvement across the organisation.

The Head of Corporate Performance and Strategy also reported that the Corporate Strategy Network was about to be launched, the purpose of which was to provide support for the Chief Officers leading on strategic workstreams and link to the development of the new corporate plan and revised business plans.

RESOLVED – That the core messages on the City of London Corporation Finances and the timetable and approach for implementing the Efficiency and Sustainability Plan be noted.

7. CORPORATE AND DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLANNING - UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Town Clerk updating on progress to the corporate and business planning process since the last meeting.

The Town Clerk advised that a refreshed Corporate Plan was being developed for 2018-23 which would set out a new vision and specific outcomes against which to monitor performance. Members would be invited to comment on the draft plan after the Common Council elections, before it was presented to the Court of Common Council for final approval prior to publication.

The Town Clerk advised that during January consultation meetings were held to offer Service Committee Chairmen early sight of the proposals for revising corporate and business planning, including the new template for high-level departmental plans. The proposals were generally received very positively, and a number of helpful suggestions and comments were made. These have been fed back to Chief Officers and their business planners working on the high-level plans.

Draft high-level departmental plans would be presented to Service Committees before the elections in March, where possible, or circulated to the current Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen. Following the elections, Service Committees would receive the high-level plans for approval, supported by detailed business plans.

The Town Clerk further advised that during 2017/18 further development work would take place, including the re-formatting of detailed business plans and arrangements for monitoring and reporting performance. Regular updates would be provided to the Sub Committee as the work progressed.

A Member commented that it would be helpful to see the existing Corporate Plan so that any fundamental changes included in the new one were easily identifiable and any implications arising as a result could be considered appropriately. Members also commented that departmental business plans should be revisited after the agreement of the new Corporate Plan.

Members noted that the output from the People, Place and Prosperity Chief Officer Groups would be used in the development of the Corporate Plan, and that Members would be involved in consultation on the draft plan and future priorities.

It was agreed that a copy of the current Corporate Plan should be circulated to Sub-Committee Members.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW SERVICE BASED REVIEW CONTRACT MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS - PROGRESS REPORT

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Chamberlain updating on the implementation of the Service Based Review recommendations approved at the Efficiency and Performance Sub-Committee in March 2016.

The Sub-Committee was advised that the implementation of the SBR contract management recommendations was progressing in line with the plan to launch the service in April 2017. Members of the newly established commercial unit had started joining the Corporation and a framework and supporting toolkit was in draft format and projected to be finalised by the end of February 2017. Overall the status of the implementation was green with the only challenge being able to secure an Assistant Director to run the service, a role which might not be recruited to in advance of the April go live date.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. **CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY
VALUE FOR MONEY INDICATORS 2015/16**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Chamberlain outlining the CIPFA Public Sector Corporate Services Value for Money (VFM) Indicators for Finance and Human Resources (HR) and 2015/16 (the latest available statistics) and comparing movements to the previous two years. The comparator base used was London Boroughs.

The Chamberlain reported that overall both Finance and HR scored well on embedding modern practices and on impact in the organisation, reflecting the high quality of the service provided. Both departments were relatively high cost compared to the local authorities in the comparator group due to the nature of the corporate structure and the mix of work undertaken. However, the relative cost, compared to the size of the organisation, of both services had fallen from the previous year.

The Chamberlain advised that he was focusing on securing further efficiencies through process re-engineering and system improvements, improving the financial management information to service users and ensuring appropriate professional development of staff.

The Director of HR was focusing on a number of areas to reduce costs going forward as part of the City Corporation's efficiency plan.

The Chairman questioned the usefulness of the data provided, particularly the comparisons to very different local authorities, and suggested that the inclusion of more trend-analysis and graphic content would be more useful.

The Chamberlain acknowledged that while the data provided limited value, any externally validated data was always helpful if the Corporation were to be challenged.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

12. **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.

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

RESOLVED - That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2016 be agreed as an accurate record.

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

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk which set out the non-public outstanding actions from previous meetings of the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED – That the non-public outstanding references be noted and updated as appropriate.

15. **SERVICE BASED REVIEW - STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT - FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REVIEW - UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee noted a joint report of the Town Clerk, Comptroller and City Solicitor, City Surveyor and Chamberlain which provided an update on the Strategic Asset Management (SAM) Programme. The report informed Members that the SAM Programme was making steady progress towards rationalising and consolidating service resource and contracts across the City Corporation to achieve greater collaboration, savings and better service outcomes.

16. **BARBICAN CENTRE SERVICE BASED REVIEW UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee noted a report of the Managing Director of the Barbican Centre which provided an update on the Barbican Centre service based review.

17. **SERVICE BASED REVIEW MONITORING**

The Sub-Committee noted a joint report of the Town Clerk and the Chamberlain which provided an update on the Service Based Review, including cross-cutting reviews, key departmental projects and the monitoring of financial savings.

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

There were no questions.

19. **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 closed at 3.30 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Chris Braithwaite
tel.no.: 020 7332 1427
christopher.braithwaite@cityoflondon.gov.uk