

Committee: Finance Committee	Date: 21 July 2020
Subject: Public 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. This report sets out some of the main public issues considered by the following Sub Committees since 23 June 2020:

Digital Services Sub-Committee – 3rd July 2020

To Follow

Procurement Sub-Committee – 6th July 2020

Members considered a quarterly progress report of the Chamberlain regarding City Procurement. The Sub Committee noted that no suppliers had invoked “force majeure” since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. Although some suppliers had flagged the potential for this course of action at the onset of the pandemic, proactive supplier management by the CoL had mitigated supplier concerns and there have been no instances of force majeure.

Members sought assurances from the Chamberlain that City Procurement’s approach to SME suppliers was aligned with wider City of London Corporation policy e.g. SME support in development by Innovation & Growth and the Chamberlain confirmed that City Procurement would be alive to the possibility to support SMEs based within the City of London, whilst striking an appropriate balance between supporting viable businesses and allowing market forces to take their course.

Efficiency and Performance Sub-Committee – 10th July 2020

Further to discussions at the meeting, Members asked officers to draft a new forward plan for the Sub-Committee for 2020/21.

Particular areas of focus would include the following:

- How E&P could dovetail with the Digital Services Sub-Committee to examine the practical ways the Corporation can harness digital technology (notably in data collection and analysis) to improve efficiencies across different departments. Discussion will include an update on investment in AI.
- Departmental deep dives – how departments are approaching “performance improvement”. The Department for Community and Children’s Services would be submitting a paper in September (TBC).

It was anticipated that identifying which other departments should be coming to the Sub-Committee would become clearer as the re-budgeting exercise progresses i.e. once the figures are more certain we can focus on those departments that are facing the greater challenges.

- An update on the Guildhall Masterplan after the impact of Covid and the resulting focus on flexible working

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the report.

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