

Committee: Finance Committee	Date: 13 October 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 21 July 2020:

Corporate Asset-Sub Committee – 15th September 2020

REVIEW OF THE CYCLICAL WORKS PROGRAMME (CWP)

The Sub-committee considered a report of the City Surveyor setting out proposals to enhance the Cyclical Works Programme.

The Chairman welcomed the report and the refreshing approach it presented in maintaining the City Corporation's operational property estate. The proposed approach offered a much more focussed way of looking at operational assets, with new software coming in for asset management giving a much greater focus and allowing spend to be more effective and in accordance with corporate strategies e.g. Climate Action, which it was hoped would be agreed at Court of Common Council next month.

A Member acknowledged the proposed direction of travel sounded sensible but suggested more detail would be needed to move forward. The Chairman responded confirming bids under this process would come through in one year's time. There was a need to agree the direction of travel at this point, with this approach offering far more target areas for servicing compared to previous methodology.

Resolved, that the Sub-committee: -

- Approve the new approach set out within the report at paragraphs 5 to 15 in preparation for the bid processes for 2022/23.
- Approve the changes to the project scoring criteria set out in Appendix 1.
- Approve the bid of £3.6m for the CWP programme for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 2.
- Note that a further report will follow in September 2021 which will set out the precise financial implications for CWP Bids for 2022/23.

Digital Services Sub-Committee – 11th September 2020

IT APPLICATION ROADMAP UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Chamberlain on the IT Application Roadmap. The Sub-Committee was informed that the current Housing Management System is provided by Orchard, but at present there is a current in-flight project to

transition to Civica's CX. The original proposal to go live was October 2020, but due to COVID -19 this has now been moved to February 2021. The Chair asked to be kept up-to-date on progress. The Deputy Director of IT (Delivery) agreed to provide future updates outside of the meeting.

Efficiency and Performance Sub-Committee – 16th September 2020

GUILDHALL COMPLEX – ROAD MAP FOR RETURN TO THE OFFICE

Before the meeting, it was envisaged that the focus would be on the medium – long term planning for a return to the Guildhall complex, and the lessons during this period that could be built upon and ultimately add value in terms of efficiencies and performance. After the City Surveyor's opening remarks, the discussion quickly turned to the state of the current short-term arrangements, with Members particularly concerned about the pace of getting officers (and Members) back into Guildhall in greater numbers.

Whilst recognising that the greater risk for officers and Members came more from utilising public transport to get to and from the City, Members were concerned that we were in danger of "gold plating" arrangements once people were in Guildhall; a balance had to be struck between ensuring that we were "covid secure" whilst allowing for the Guildhall to become, once again, an effective workplace for the highest possible number of users.

The questioning was robust and reflective of how the discussion went at RASC and Court earlier in September. More positively, Members are pleased that officers are examining the lessons of the past six months and the likely longer term impact for smart working, building utilisation and workplace culture; they expressed their keenness to hear more in due course.

Finance Grants Oversight and Performance Sub Committee – 22nd September 2020

The Sub-Committee met for the first time since January 2020, as the June 2020 meeting had been cancelled due to COVID-19.

The Sub-Committee received a report regarding the Central Grants Programme (CGP) and Central Grants Update (CGU). The report provided an overview of CGU work since the Sub-Committee's last meeting in January 2020, noting that COVID-19 restrictions came into effect at the beginning of the new financial year and therefore had an impact on the work of the programme. The Sub-Committee agreed the wording of the CGP Annual Report for onward submission to Committees. The Head of CGU also provided a presentation regarding Monitoring and Evaluation for the 2019-20 CGU Annual Report. A total of 50 grants were awarded across the programmes.

The Chief Grants Officer & Director of CBT provided Members with an update on the Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund, which recently launched on 1 September after a 6-month delay due to COVID-19. This time had been used to expand awareness of the programme. The Neighbourhood Fund currently has a value of £5.6M.

The Sub-Committee also received an update on Benefits-In-Kind, noting that there were limitations on BIK which could be offered due to building closures during the COVID-19

lockdown period. Members requested that further information be provided at a future meeting regarding BIK for Mansion House and the Central Criminal Court.

Procurement Sub-Committee – 7th October 2020

N/A

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the report.

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