

EFFICIENCY AND PERFORMANCE SUB (FINANCE) COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 16 June 2021

Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Efficiency and Performance Sub (Finance) Committee held virtually on Wednesday, 16 June 2021 at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark (Chairman)
Jeremy Mayhew (Deputy Chairman)
Randall Anderson
Deputy Roger Chadwick
Henry Colthurst
James de Sausmarez
Alderman Emma Edhem
Deputy Clare James
Paul Martinelli

Officers:

John Cater	- Committee Clerk
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Chamberlain's Department
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department
Aqib Hussain	- Chamberlain's Department
Nick Senior	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Sonia Virdee	- Chamberlain's Department

1. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Deputy 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 of the meeting held on 30th March 2021 be agreed as an accurate record.

4. SECURING 'FLIGHTPATH' SAVINGS AND UNDERSTANDING SERVICE IMPACTS: 2021/22 PROGRESS

The Sub-Committee received a Joint Report of the Town Clerk and the Chamberlain concerning the Target Operating Model "flightpath" savings.

After the Chamberlain provided an overview, there followed a discussion and several points were made.

In response to a query, the Chamberlain, whilst recognising the initial TOM costs of £6.6m, stressed that this was a one-off sum; the key focus will be on scoping out the permanent savings as part of our delivering on the 12% overall target; achieving this savings target (approx. £15m per annum) is vital to set the Corporation's finances on a long term sustainable footing.

The Chamberlain reminded Members that the Fundamental Review savings was separate to the 12% savings target.

The Deputy Chairman remarked that the TOM work was core for the Sub-Committee over the upcoming year.

He added that the presentation in the Report could be sharper for future iterations; for instance, a barometer could be a useful illustrative device to indicate progress achieved and what still needs to be done.

Given that the savings targets have, ultimately, been set by the Town Clerk, the Deputy Chairman requested that the Town Clerk or a senior representative from the Town Clerk's team (e.g. the COO) be invited to attend future meetings of the Efficiency & Performance Sub-Committee when TOM related papers are considered. The Chairman asked the Committee clerk to liaise with the Town Clerk on this point.

In response to a query, the Chamberlain confirmed that officer-to-officer accountability was robust. Departmental proposals went through the (officer composed) Design Authority Board, the Chamberlain held regular meetings on progress with Chief Officers (and their senior teams) and the respective departmental Heads of Finance (and information was shared in a timely manner); in addition, the newly established Executive Board would be examining the departmental financial information as a part of their regular broad overview of the City's finances.

In response to a query, the Chamberlain stressed that achieving the savings would need careful consideration; for instance, top slicing could, ultimately, result in increases to the cost base for several departments. Fundamentally, we needed to adopt a nuanced approach that took account of the differing pressures across different departments. It was also vital to not fall into the trap of cost shunting.

The Chamberlain and the Chairman reiterated that the Efficiency & Performance Sub-Committee and the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee had major roles to play in ensuring Members were aware and involved in this process over the coming year.

The Chairman thanked Members for their very useful contributions and looked forward to future updates on this critical area.

RESOLVED – that the Sub-Committee noted the Report.

5. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.
6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There were no items of urgent business.
7. **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.
8. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
RESOLVED - That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 30th March 2021 be agreed as an accurate record.
9. **DEEP DIVE REPORT FOR COMPTROLLER**
The Sub-Committee received a Report of the Comptroller & City Solicitor.
10. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.
11. **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 ended at 11.20 am

Chairman

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