

Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Monday 23 November 2009

PRESENT:

Councillor Fox, in the Chair.
Councillor Wildy, Vice Chair.
Councillors Berrow, Mrs Foster, Lowry, Mrs Nicholson, Roberts, Smith and Mrs Stephens.

Apology for absence: Councillor McDonald.

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.30 am.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

32. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2009 are approved as a correct record.

33. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

34. FEEDBACK FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Vice Chair provided an update on the main issues raised at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting held on 4 November 2009.

The panel's terms of reference would be submitted to the City Council to recommend that the Overview and Scrutiny Panels' terms of reference be amended to read 'to monitor the budget and performance of the Cabinet Members, Department(s) and partners to oversee delivery of the priorities of the area and with regard to better value for money'.

35. LIFE CENTRE AND RELATED LEISURE PROJECTS - UPDATE AND TO AGREE FUTURE SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

The Director for Community Services submitted an update report on the Life Centre and Related Projects Programme. The report outlined the following main issues –

- (i) Life Centre progress and costs;
- (ii) leisure management contract;
- (iii) the Pavilions;
- (iv) leisure ice;
- (v) other project related issues including the skate park re-provision, master planning for Central Park and events field relocation.

Members of the panel put forward questions, to which the following responses were provided –

- (a) five full tender submissions had been returned on 2 October 2009; a review of the tenders was taking place to identify the preferred bidder and to ensure the optimal cost/quality was achieved;
- (b) the five tenders received all indicated that the facility would be completed by the autumn of 2011;
- (c) the specific details of the funding package to deliver this project were currently being worked on;
- (d) the evaluation process of the tenders was being undertaken on a 50/50 basis (cost/quality);
- (e) the tender had been published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU); (all tenders from the public sector above a certain financial threshold had to be published in this journal);
- (f) the successful bidder would have its own employment strategy but it was likely that some local people would be employed on the project together with their existing workforce;
- (g) Leisure Management Contract - six bidders had been successful in proceeding to the next stage of the process - Invitation to Submit Outline Solutions (ISOS); the contract award was anticipated to be late 2010 but this would be dependant on the procurement route (12 months prior to the opening of the Life Centre);
- (h) the initial return of five responses to the soft market testing for the ice re-provision was considered to be favourable;
- (i) information on the specific employment levels during the construction phase would be available at the January 2010 meeting;
- (j) HR were actively involved in the issues relating to the leisure management contract.

Recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that –

- (1) the report is noted;
- (2) an additional meeting of the panel is held in January 2010 to review the following –
 - a. the Life Centre and Related Leisure Projects Programme;
 - b. the award of the Life Centre construction contract;
 - c. funding/finance of the project.
- (3) the panel seeks delegated authority from the Management Board to consider the panel's recommendations to Cabinet on 19 January 2010 (due to the tight timescales, it will not be possible to submit the panel's recommendations to the Board, as the scheduled meeting on 2 December 2009 is too early and the meeting on 20 January 2010 is too late).

36. **QUARTERLY SCRUTINY REPORT**

The panel considered its draft quarterly report.

Resolved that –

- (1) the report is amended as indicated;
- (2) the report is submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

37. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

The panel expressed its disappointed that Members were not being given the appropriate tools to effectively monitor budget and performance issues.

Recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that the current anomaly is further investigated to enable the bi-monthly joint finance and performance report is submitted to the panel to enable it to effectively monitor the budget and performance issues.

38. HIGH LEVEL BUDGETARY RISKS

Please refer to minute 38.

39. UPDATE ON MOBILE POLLING UNITS

The Director for Corporate Support submitted an update report on the Mobile Polling Units. The report outlined the –

- (i) new design of the mobile polling unit;
- (ii) purchase of the new style units;
- (iii) replacement programme.

Resolved that the report is noted.

40. UPDATE ON THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE ACCESS TO SERVICES INSPECTION

The panel was informed that it was the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to monitor performance against Inspection Action Plans including Access to Services.

Resolved that the lead officer investigate this matter.

41. TRACKING RESOLUTIONS

The panel received for its information a copy of the Tracking Resolutions schedules.

Resolved that the report is noted.

42. WORK PROGRAMME

The panel considered its work programme 2009/10.

Resolved that the work programme is noted.

43. EXEMPT BUSINESS

There were no items of exempt business.