

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH
CORPORATE FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE
SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY, 28 MARCH 2024 AT 6.30 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members: Councillor Nick Williams (Chair), Jo van den Broek, Sandra Thomas, Jit Rhanbat and Simon Peirce.

Officers

Assistant Chief Executive, Head of Procurement and Scrutiny Officer.

Others in attendance

Local resident

Item

No.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received for Councillors John Hills and Jackie Smith.

2 Urgent Business

There was none.

3 Declarations of Interest

Resolved –

That the list of Councillors' memberships as Council appointed representatives on outside bodies, joint committees and school governing bodies be noted.

4 Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the meeting held on 1 February 2024 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

5 Contract Standing Orders - Waivers Variations Jan to June 2023

The report was presented by the Head of Procurement who advised that the delays in reporting were due to the time it had taken to receive the relevant information from Directorates. She stated that there would be upcoming changes to the Contract Standing Orders (CSO's) and reporting requirement as a result of new legislation.

The Chair stated that he appreciated the new format which included more detail however, there was still some work to be done in ensuring the timeliness of the updates.

The Panel requested more detailed information on the MLL Contract Extension and what this involved.

Action: Head of Procurement

The Head of Procurement highlighted there were some duplications due to the use of different naming conventions.

In response to a question from a member of the public, the Head of Procurement confirmed she would contact the relevant directorate to see why there is only one specialist provider available for the provision of speech and language support for early years.

Action: Head of Procurement

In relation to the Beam Project Expansion, Members requested detailed information on how the savings in temporary accommodation costs and homelessness prevention were being tracked.

Action: Head of Procurement

The Panel

Resolved –

To note the summary of Waivers and Variations to Contract Standing Orders reported for the period 1st January 2023 to 30th June 2023.

6 Update on Procurement and Social Value

The report was presented by the Head of Procurement who advised on the procurement elements of the Finance change programme. She confirmed that the CSOs had been redrafted to ensure that internal governance was streamlined and that the plan was to present for full Council approval at the July meeting. She added that the Social Value Framework was currently being remapped against the new Our Greenwich Missions and highlighted the new legislative requirement for improved contract management and performance reporting which included Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). She stated there were ongoing meetings with the sustainability team to see how the procurement work could supplement the Carbon Neutral Plan.

In response to questions, the Head of Procurement stated that training was being rolled out to staff on how to write meaningful KPI's. She advised that the new CSO's would provide a swifter route through procurement activities whilst retaining the rigour. She added that officers would be able to make quicker decisions at the award stage, which should allow bidders to hold price.

With regards to the Social Value Framework, the Head of Procurement stated that intention was provide a corporate consistent approach to assist contract managers.

In response to a question, the Head of Procurement advised on what the overall improvements and benefits would look like including better services for the money available.

The Panel

Resolved –

To note the update on procurement activity further to the procurement strategy dated 22 October 2019 including progress on Social Value

7 Commissioning of future reports

The item was introduced by the Chair, who noted the work item that was scheduled to be presented to the meeting of the Corporate Finance and Performance Scrutiny Panel taking place on 18th April 2024.

Before closing the meeting, the Chair confirmed that the update on the '*Street Enforcement and Kerbside Strategy*' would be presented at this meeting.

The Panel

Resolved –

That the Commissioning of future reports be noted

The meeting ended at 7.12pm.

Chair