

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 16th March 2015
Report for: Discussion
Report of: Chairman of Scrutiny Committee

Report Title

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESPONSE TO JOINT VENTURE PROPOSALS

Summary

The Scrutiny Committee met on the 26th February 2015 to consider a further update on whether the desired outcomes have been achieved to engage private sector partners for the delivery of a range of environmental, highways, professional, technical and infrastructure services. The Committee were provided an update on the procurement process prior to the report being issued to the Executive.

This report sets out the findings of the Committee for the Executive's consideration as part of its decision making around the Joint Venture proposals.

Recommendation(s)

That the Executive note the comments of the Scrutiny Committee and provide a response on the matters raised.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Peter Forrester
Extension: 1815

Background Papers:

None

1.0 Background

On 26 February 2015, the Scrutiny Committee convened to discuss the upcoming decision on the awarding of the Joint Venture Contracts as part of the 'Reshaping Trafford' strategy.

The Committee had also met on 29 October to receive a presentation on the latest position and also made some comments as part of the Budget Scrutiny report. The Committee welcome the opportunity to discuss and comment on the proposals ahead of the decision.

The Committee felt that the presentation by the Director of Growth and Regulatory Services at the meeting on the 26 February was informative and alleviated several of the Committee's concerns as far as is possible prior to the final arrangements of the successful bids.

However, the Committee feels there are still some areas arising from the presentation and reports that they would bring to the Executive's attention.

- (1) **Social and Community Engagement** - The Committee are disappointed by the apparent lack of explicit incentives for contractors to engage with local communities. The Committee acknowledge that, whilst the need to engage with local communities is recognised, there need to be clearer incentives to encourage contractors to engage with residents to develop innovative ways to improve services.

The Committee would also welcome confirmation about the proposed arrangements for on-going Member involvement in any processes of community engagement.

- (2) **Budget Pressures** - The Committee are unclear whether the proposed savings are achievable (in particular in Lot 3). The Committee are concerned that the proposed savings target in year 1 would not be met which raises concerns that this will impact on current and future budgets.

- (3) **Contractor Failure** - The Committee would welcome greater clarity about what would happen in the event of contractor failure. For example, the steps that will be put in place if the contractor's performance falls significantly below the agreed service levels resulting in the contract being terminated. The Committee would also welcome confirmation of what would happen if a contractor ceased to exist.

The Committee ask the Executive to consider the above comments when making their final decision and to provide information to the Scrutiny Committee Members to alleviate these concerns.

The Scrutiny Committee will be tracking the delivery of any Joint Venture contracts as part of their future work programmes.