

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 FEBRUARY 2015

PRESENT

Councillor A. Mitchell (in the Chair).

M. Cordingley (Vice-Chairman), R. Bowker, D. Butt, L. Dagnall, Mrs. P. Dixon, Mrs. L. Evans, J. Holden, B. Sharp and D. Western

In attendance

Councillor M. Hyman	Executive Member for Economic Growth and Planning
Councillor John Reilly	Executive Member for Environment and Operations

Also in attendance

P. Forrester	Democratic and Performance Services Manager
C. Gaffey	Democratic and Scrutiny Officer
D. Geary	Senior Business Change Manager
C. Hindle	Director of Contracts
J. Le Fevre	Director of Legal and Democratic Services
R. Roe	Director of Growth and Regulatory Services

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. Carter and J. Lloyd

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2014 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were made by Members.

20. PART I: RESHAPING TRAFFORD: ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Following the Scrutiny Committee presentation on the Joint Venture contracts at the meeting on 29 October 2014 (minutes 15 and 17), the Committee received a further report and presentation of the Director of Growth and Regulatory Services. This was to provide an update on the work undertaken to engage private sector partners for the delivery of a range of environmental, highways, professional, technical and infrastructure services.

The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services answered several questions from Members regarding the contract's length, flexibility and robustness. Other Joint Venture examples were discussed and how the Council could learn from these, as well as what impact the contracts could have on local businesses.

RESOLVED: That the Committee thank the Director of Growth and Regulatory Services for the presentation and noted that it is intended to

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give further consideration to this matter (minute 22 refers) following a proposal to exclude the press and public.

21. EXCLUSION RESOLUTION (REMAINING ITEMS)

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the remaining item of business because of the likelihood of disclosure of “exempt information” which falls within Paragraph 3 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

22. PART II: RESHAPING TRAFFORD: ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Further to the earlier presentation (minute 20 refers), the Committee received a report and presentation of the Director of Growth and Regulatory Services, containing information relating to the terms of the Joint Venture contracts.

The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services responded to a number of questions from the Committee concerning the commissioning and evaluation process, the arrangements for monitoring contract performance, the incentives for contractors to engage with local communities, and whether the initial objectives of awarding the contracts could be met.

The Committee discussed the comments that they would like to make to the Executive prior to their decision on the 16th March. These included concerns about the lack of incentives for contractors to engage with local communities. The Committee acknowledged that, whilst the need to engage with local communities was recognised, there needed to be clearer incentives to encourage contractors to engage with residents to develop innovative ways to improve services.

The Committee were also unclear as to whether the proposed savings were achievable. The Committee were concerned that the proposed savings target in year 1 would not be met which raised concerns that this would impact on current and future budgets.

The Committee also stated that it would welcome greater clarity about what would happen in the event of contractor failure. The Committee also asked for details of what would happen if a contractor ceased to exist.

The Chairman thanked the Director of Growth and Regulatory Services for a valuable presentation.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report on progress to date be noted.
- (2) That the Democratic and Performance Services Manager in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman finalise the Committee's response to the Executive meeting on 16 March 2015.

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The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and finished at 9.30 pm