

Highways Maintenance Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee

30 January 2008

Review of Highways Maintenance (Part B)– Draft Final Report

Summary

1. This report asks Members to consider and agree any necessary changes / additions to the draft final report and associated annexes for Scrutiny Management Committee attached at Annex A & Annexes Aa - Ae.

Background

2. At its meeting in September 2006, Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) agreed to proceed with a review of topic No.135 into Highways Maintenance Procurement and the PFI bid. The issues raised within the registered topic were split into parts A & B. At a meeting of SMC in March 2007 the final report for Part A was presented and the following remit for Part B of this review was agreed:

Aim

3. To examine how the Council can fund the PFI and gain an understanding of the alleged financial loss to the council caused by delays in the procurement process since 2003.

Objectives

4. The above aims to be achieved through the following objectives:
 - a. To examine the financial information that was provided to Urgency Committee in September 2006 including the key financial risks highlighted within the report
 - b. To investigate the figures included in the report which advised Members to go ahead with the PFI approach to Highways Maintenance Procurement
 - c. To compare the actual cost to the Council since 2003 in respect of Highways procurement to the costs originally included in the Best Value Review of 2001

Consultation

5. This review was progressed in consultation with the Assistant Director of City Development & Transport and other key officers in City Strategy.

Options

6. Having regard to the aims and objectives of this topic remit and having considered the information provided in the draft final report and associated Annexes (see Annexes A & Aa-Ae attached), Members may either :
 - Sign off the final report and annexes in their current form for consideration by SMC or;
 - Agree any amendments or additional information to be made to the draft final report and annexes, prior to their consideration by SMC

Analysis

7. In regard to the objectives considered, the final report and annexes detail all of the information gathered and identify the issues arising. Once Members have given them due consideration, any identified additions or amendments will be made prior to their presentation to SMC.

Implications

8. There are no specific financial implications arising as a consequence of the recommendations made within the final draft report. However, the PFI has significant financial implications which will be identified in future EMAP / Executive reports.
9. There are no known HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, ITT, Property or Other implications associated with the recommendations in this report

Risk Management

10. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations contained within this report.

Corporate Priorities

11. It is recognised that this review could contribute to improving 'the actual and perceived condition and appearance of the city's streets, housing estates and publicly accessible spaces' by helping to improve the Council's procurement arrangements for highways maintenance. In rationalising our procurement arrangements, it could also help in our ambition to be clear about what we will do to meet the needs of our communities and then to deliver the best quality services that we can afford.

Recommendation

12. In light of the above options, Members are asked to agree if any amendments are required to the final report and its associated annexes.

Reason: In order that this information can be included in the final report to be considered by SMC and the review concluded.

Contact Details

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Interim Report Approved

Date 21 January 2008

Wards Affected:

All

Author:

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – Draft Final Report for SMC
Annex Aa – Best Value Review Information
Annex Ab – Urgency Committee Report
Annex Ac – Overview of Approach to Benchmarking Costs
Annex Ad – Timeline of Events
Annex Ae - Outcome of Best Value Review