

Scrutiny Management Committee

26 March 2007

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Draft Remit for Part B of the Highways Maintenance Procurement Review

Summary

1. At its meeting in September 2006, Scrutiny Management Committee agreed to proceed with a review of topic no. 135 into Highways Maintenance Procurement and the PFI bid. Part A of the review has been completed and in accordance with the new scrutiny procedures for managing reviews, a draft remit for Part B is now attached for Members' consideration at Annex A.

Background

2. In September 2006 and in light of developments with the Council's Highways PFI bid, Councillor Simpson-Laing was consulted on her original topic registration and asked to update it to include reference to the PFI bid. A revised registration form was submitted – see Annex B.

Consultation

3. The remit arising from that registration was discussed with the Head of Highway Infrastructure and the Chair/Vice Chair of SMC and as a result it was agreed that the issues raised in the amended topic registration be dealt with in 2 parts. Part A of the review has been recently completed and SMC are to consider the draft final report at this meeting.

Options

4. Members can approve or amend the proposed remit. A remit must, however, be agreed and in place before the first meeting of the Ad-hoc Sub-Committee.

Analysis

5. The remit for Part B of the review deals with the outstanding issues in the revised topic registration which relate to gaining an understanding of the alleged financial loss to the Council caused by delays in the procurement process since 2003.

6. it is anticipated that the same membership of the Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee will consider Part B having now completed its review of Part A.

Corporate Priorities

7. Parts A & B of this review will contribute to improving 'the actual and perceived condition and appearance of the city's streets and open spaces' through contributing to improving the Council's procurement arrangements for highways maintenance. In rationalising our procurement arrangements, it may help to improve our organisational effectiveness.

Implications

8. There are no known financial, HR, equalities, legal, crime and disorder, IT or other implications at this stage of the process.

Risk Management

9. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with undertaking this review, other than the potential of not maximizing efficiencies in the Council's procurement arrangements for highways maintenance.

Recommendations

10. Members are asked to consider the draft remit (Part B) attached in connection with a two stage approach for dealing with the review of highways maintenance procurement arrangement.

Reason: In order to progress existing agreed scrutiny reviews within procedural and constitutional requirements.

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – Part B Draft Remit – Highways Maintenance Procurement

Annex B - Topic Registration Form No. 135

Background Papers

None