
Highways PFI Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee

20 June 2007

Scoring Report for Highways Maintenance Procurement & PFI Review – Part B

Purpose of Report

1. This report introduces Members to Part B of the review of Highways maintenance procurement and the Private Finance Initiative (PFI)¹ bid.

Background

2. 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. The issues raised within the registered topic were split into two parts. Part A of the review has been completed and at a meeting of SMC on 26 March 2007 a remit for part B was agreed – see Annex A.

Consultation

4. In order to fully investigate the issues raised within the remit for Part B it will be necessary to consult with officers from City Strategy. Officers will be in attendance at this meeting and will provide the following information:
 - Clarification on the outcome of the Best Value Review
 - Documentation to quantify the budget for highway maintenance from the time of the review to date
 - An indication of the main savings achieved in the period 2003/4 to 2006/7

Timetable For Review

5. A timeframe of three months has been set for carrying out Part B of this review and in order to facilitate a prompt start the documentation referred to in the remit is attached as follows:
 - Financial information previously provided to Urgency Committee in September 2006 (Annex B)
 - Best Value Review of 2001 (Annex C)

¹ A PFI is a scheme where the Government contracts a private company to carry out an agreed programme of works involving a public service over a fixed term.

Options

6. Having regard to the agreed timeframe and the aims and objectives of the remit for Part B of the review, Members may decide a series of meeting dates and agree a programme for looking at the outstanding issues.

Implications

7. There are no Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology or Property implications associated with this report.

Corporate Priorities

8. It was recognised that this review could contribute to improving 'the actual and perceived condition and appearance of the city's streets and open spaces' by helping to improve the Council's procurement arrangements for highways maintenance. In rationalising our procurement arrangements, it could also help to improve our organisational effectiveness.

Risk Management

9. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there is a risk associated with not keeping to the agreed timetable as this would affect the focus of the review and the progress of the Scrutiny Workplan.

Recommendations

10. Having considered the information provided within the report and by officers at the meeting, Members are asked to agree a series of meeting dates and a schedule of work for Part B of this review.

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

Contact Details

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Interim Report Approved



Date 7 June 2007

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers - None

Annexes

Annex A – Part B Remit

Annex B - Financial information from Urgency Committee in September 2006

Annex C – Best Value Review of 2001