

Update on the Contracts Task and Finish Group

For Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 29 September 2022.

Summary

Lead Member: Councillor Mark Ellis – Chair of the Contracts Task and Finish Group

Lead Director: Paul Taylor – Director of Change and Communities

Covering Report Author: Mark O’Callaghan – Scrutiny and Engagement Officer

Classification: Public document

Wards Affected: All

Committee Timetable	Date
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	27 July 2022
Document review	August 2022
Contracts Task and Finish Group (meeting with Director of Change and Communities)	24 August 2022
Contracts Task and Finish Group (Interviews meeting)	6 September 2022
Interim Report Drafting session	13 September 2022
Draft Interim Report circulated	18 September 2022
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	29 September 2022

Recommendations

Officer recommendations:

1. That the Committee confirms the membership of the Task and Finish Group as: Councillors Ellis (Chair), Holden, Le Page, McMillan, Morton and Rogers; and
2. That the Committee notes the Interim Report as set out at Appendix A to the report.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This report follows the update given at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 July 2022.
- 1.2 This report serves two purposes. 1) to correct a mistake in the previous report; and 2) to provide an update on the work of the Task and Finish Group.
- 1.3 The report considered at the committee meeting on 27 July contained a mistake which lead to an omission being made in the related resolution of the committee. The body of the report referred to Councillor Rogers as joining the Task and Finish Group but omitted her from the list of appointees. Therefore, this report seeks to rectify this error by confirming the appointment of Councillor Rogers to the Contracts Task and Finish Group.
- 1.4 Since the last committee meeting, members of the Task and Finish Group have worked on the review and prepared the attached interim report (Appendix A).

2. Options

- 2.1 Councillor Rogers has been participating in the work of the Task and Finish Group therefore her formal appointment is highly recommended.
- 2.2 Without prejudice to any other decision the Committee may wish to make, the Committee is asked to note the interim report.
- 2.3 The Committee is at liberty to disregard these recommendations and to instruct the Task and Finish Group to pursue an alternative course of action.

3. Preferred Option and Reason

- 3.1 The Task and Finish Group believes that the work so far undertaken by the Group fulfils the expectations of the Committee and offers a practical and effective way forward.

4. Consultation on Options

- 4.1 No public consultation has taken place on this matter but this document and any documents referred to therein are publicly available. The public are encouraged to attend meetings and, subject to giving due notice, comment on any matter under consideration by the Committee.

5. Implementation

- 5.1 The decision of the Committee will be communicated to relevant persons and published through the minutes.

6. Appendices and Background Documents

Appendices:

- Appendix A – Interim Report of the Contracts Task and Finish Group

Exempt appendices (if any):

- None

Background Papers:

- None

7. Cross Cutting Issues

A. Legal (including the Human Rights Act)

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to establish a task and finish group on any matter that it feels is affecting residents of the borough, without Cabinet approval, but does not have decision making powers in terms of staffing or resources. As such any recommendations it makes will ultimately need to be referred to the relevant decision maker for approval.

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report, however further reports will be required to give effect to the option adopted and legal input will be provided at the appropriate time in respect of such reports.

There are no consequences arising from this report that adversely affect or interfere with individuals' rights and freedoms as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998.

B. Finance and Other Resources

There are no direct financial implications as a result of the options within this report. There is no specific budget for the Committee. However, the Committee is resourced to undertake a maximum of two concurrent Task and Finish Groups. Any substantive recommendations of the Committee would be subject to separate consideration of any financial implications.

Mark O'Callaghan, Scrutiny and Engagement Officer, 21 September 2022.

C. Other implications (Staffing, Risk Management, Environment and Sustainability, Community Safety, Equalities, Data Protection, Health and Safety, Health and Wellbeing)

There are no direct, significant implications as a result of the options within this report. Any substantive recommendations of the Committee would be subject to separate consideration of any relevant implications.

Mark O'Callaghan, Scrutiny and Engagement Officer, 21 September 2022.