

M MINUTES

meeting: **PERFORMANCE, GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**

date: **9 MAY 2013**

PRESENT:- Councillors Potter(Chair) , Bedi, Bolshaw, Claymore, Dehar, Haynes, J Jaspal, M Jaspal, P Singh, Sweetman and Mrs Thompson (Vice Chair)

Also in Attendance Councillor Sweet

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

Delivery Directorate

S Aldis

D Breedon

S Davies

K Ireland

A Merrick

M Taylor

W Trainor

J Wright

Project Manager

Scrutiny Officer

Chief Human Resources Officer

Strategic Director Delivery

Assistant Director Central Services

Assistant Director Finance

Interim Chief Legal Officer

Democratic Support Officer

Office of The Chief Executive

C Trynka

Interim Head of Equalities

Wolverhampton
City Council



PART I – OPEN ITEMS

Appreciation of the Chair

107 The Chair expressed her appreciation for the support she had received during the year from members of the panel and officers.

Apologies For Absence

108 Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Shah.

Declarations of Interest

109 None.

Role of the Equalities Member Champion

A report was submitted on the role of the Member Champion.

Members of the Panel felt that it was important for the Member Champion to be visible both within the Council and to external bodies. It was confirmed that whilst the Cabinet member for Governance retained overall responsibility for equalities issues the Member Champion would identify areas of council activity that was falling below the required standard and needed remedial action to be taken.

Consideration was given to how the work of the Member Champion would be monitored. It was noted that the Equalities Advisory Board would receive regular reports. Members felt that the Confidential Capable Council Scrutiny Panel should also receive updates every six months on the work of the Member Champion and on the implementation of the Equalities Implementation Plan.

110 Resolved:-
 1) That the report be received.
 2) That the Confidential Capable Council Scrutiny Panel should receive updates every six months on the work of the Member Champion and on the implementation of the Equalities Implementation Plan.

Delivery Directorate Business Plan 2013

A report was submitted on the Delivery Directorate business plan. The plan set out the priorities for the forthcoming year.

Members welcomed the report.

Some members asked about the opening hours of the Shaw road recycling facility and about the agreement with Dudley MBC regarding use of the Anchor Lane site. It was confirmed that the payment received from Dudley MBC for use of Anchor Lane by residents of Dudley did not cover the cost of recycling the additional material received. Members felt

that a further report on this issue should be submitted to the appropriate scrutiny panel.

111

Resolved:-

- 1) That the report be received.
- 2) That a report be submitted to the appropriate scrutiny panel on the agreement with Dudley MBC to allow residents of Dudley to make use of the Anchor Lane recycling site.

Legal Services Court Bundling Software

A report was submitted on the use of Court Bundling Software. The changes that would arise as a result of use of the software would form a key part of the transformation of Legal Services.

Members welcomed the report and asked a number of questions and in particular asked about the timescales for the contract for use of the software.

112

Resolved:-

That the proposed use of the Court Bundling Software be endorsed.

Legal Services Lexcel Accreditation

A report was submitted on a proposal that Legal services should achieve Lexcel Accreditation. The accreditation was a Law Society benchmarking standard for practice management excellence and would ensure that Legal Services met the highest management and customer care standards. Members welcomed the report.

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Resolved:-

That the proposal to seek Lexcel Accreditation be endorsed.

Exclusion of Press and Public

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Resolved:-

That in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from consideration of the items of business in Part II of the Agenda, on the grounds that in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, exempt information falling within the paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A to the Act (information relating to an individual and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person/labour relations implications) is likely to be disclosed.

PART II - EXEMPT ITEMS

Creating a Council Temporary Staffing Agency

A report was submitted on the principle of the Council creating its own temporary staffing agency. The benefits of establishing such an agency were explained to the Panel.

The Panel considered that the proposal would be beneficial to the Council and requested that a progress report on the implementation be submitted to a future meeting of the Confident Capable Council Scrutiny Panel.

115

Resolved:-

- 1) That the report be received.
- 2) That. the principle of the Council creating its own temporary staffing agency be endorsed.
- 3) A report be submitted to a future meeting of the Confident Capable Council Scrutiny Panel on the detailed business planning work for Option 2.