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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 26th September 2016

Present: Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner (Chair)
Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Gulfam Asif
Councillor Ken Sims

In attendance: Kim Brear, Assistant Director, Place
Helen Geldart, Head of Housing Services
Linda Beckett, Economic Resilience Programme Manager
Penny Bunker, Governance Manager

29 Membership of Committee

Noted.

30 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 September 2016 be deferred to the next meeting.

31 Interests

No interests were declared.

32 Admission of the Public

Agreed that all items be considered on public session.

33 Housing Futures Update

The Management Committee received an update on the progress made on the merger of Building Services and Kirklees Neighbourhood housing.

The Committee noted that in February the decision was made by Cabinet to proceed with the merger. Delegation of aspects of the decision including legal

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issues and TUPE arrangements for staff were delegated to the Director of Place. The final decisions were taken by the Director of Place earlier in September 2016.

Kim Brear continued to provide an update on the work that was being undertaken including arrangements to move Building Services staff and the finance team across to KNH with effect from 17 October. It was noted that there were approximately 500 staff affected by TUPE rules. The company being formed was a Teckal company which meant that it was a wholly owned company of the Council.

Under the EU rules a Teckal company can undertake 80% of its work from the subsidising shareholder which would leave a remaining 20% for options of work outside of the local authority. Work was under way to look at how the 20% could be maximised after insuring value for money and a delivery of quality services for the Council.

The Committee was informed by April it was anticipated that the transition to the new arrangement would be finalised and new formal governance arrangements in place. The KNH Board would continue and include Council, independent and tenant representatives. An annual report on the performance of the company would be submitted to Full Council. The portfolio holder and Council officers would undertake a quarterly review to keep updated on the financial performance and service performance of the new company.

The Management Committee questioned how the new company would ensure its competitiveness and represent value for money for the Council. Kim Brear explained the set fee approach which would be based on business plans which included value for money information and evidence of competitiveness. The Cabinet was clear that there needed to be efficiencies achieved as part of the move to a new Teckal company.

The Management Committee asked about the involvement of unions. Ms Brear indicated that there had been regular meetings with the unions over the last 9 months and concerns that had been raised had been addressed. These were mainly issues around staff terms and conditions and pensions.

The Management Committee determined that a further update report was not required however Councillor Asif, as Scrutiny lead member would maintain an overview of progress. Councillor Asif indicated that he would wish to understand the plans for the trading of services up to 20% and how Building Services would secure this additional income.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That Kim Brear and Helen Geldart be thanked for attending the meeting.
- (2) That future monitoring of the progress of the merger between Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing and Building Services be monitored at Scrutiny Lead Member briefings.

34 Date of Next Meeting/OSMC Work Programme

The Management Committee considered arrangements for its next meeting and agreed that it would be held on Monday 17 October 2016 at 9.30am in the Town Hall, Huddersfield. The agenda for the meeting included flood risk and the complaints annual report. Sue Richards, Assistant Director, Early Intervention and Prevention would return with a further update on the progress of work in Children's Services.

The Management Committee agreed to move the School Bereavement Policy Ad Hoc Panel Report to 6 January 2017. An item on assets including the role of Members in informing decision making, was added to the agenda for 7 November 2016.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the next meeting of the Committee be held on Monday 17 October 2016 at 9.30am.
- (2) That the agenda plan for Monday 7 November be amended to include an update on Asset Management.
- (3) That the School Bereavement Scrutiny Task Group Report be submitted to the meeting on Friday 6 January 2017.