

Audit Committee – Thursday 20 June 2019

Agenda item 4 – Public Question Time

Question from Nigel Behan of the UNITE Trade Union, regarding agenda item 5 Partial Audits Update

It is stated that:

“3.2. The report also identified one significant weakness, with a finding that significant numbers of managers have not completed important training:

- . Systems to identify and address non-completion of training are not effective;
- . A lack of a corporate training policy (for managers);
- . Mandatory training (for managers) not clearly identified.

3.3. One high-priority recommendation was made, that a Management & Leadership Training Framework is written and implemented to address the weaknesses described.”

And in Section 4 “Our response to the audit has led to a number of programmes of work as outlined here.” Which includes “SLT Development Programme (currently being procured);”

Question 1: What is the approximate value of the proposed contract to provide the SLT Development Programme?

Questions from Nigel Behan of the UNITE Trade Union, regarding agenda item 7 Value for Money Tracker

In 3a GTVFM Tracker – 19 06 20. “GTVFM0005 Risk Owner: Sheila Collins Next Risk Review Date: 11/07/2019

Risk Description: External Audit - VFM: Reporting of financial performance to members should be transparent and understandable and include greater analysis of areas such as use of reserves or grants and application and achievement of transformational projects through the use of capital flexibilities.

Review and improve further our Budget Monitoring reports, making them more transparent and understandable We will review and improve further our Budget Monitoring reports and how they link back to our budget setting documentation. It is noted that our current format has previously served us well but given our current financial context we will seek to make them more transparent for all members to see our progress and recommendations. This will include a statement on the use of the Capital Receipts Flexibilities and a fuller disclosure of the transformation projects that are being considered for funding through this mechanism. Q3 budget monitoring report included line charts (in total and for each core service) to show the budget variances month by month to enable an easy overview of the trend across the year.

Month 10 and the Outturn report for 2018/19 continued the increased transparency of reporting. The Outturn report, presented to Cabinet on 10 June 2019, included the full year line chart. The summary in the Outturn report brought together a summary of the councils financial journey throughout 2018/19 to ensure the public were fully sighted in a single report.

The approach to monthly reporting will continue in 2019/20 with incremental further improvements as relevant that link financial reporting and service performance.

11/06/2019 Financial Reporting to Members increased in frequency and transparency since September 2018: monthly revenue reporting to Cabinet and Scrutiny meetings. Increased reporting will be sustained into 2019/20. Outturn report included specific annexes detailing: carry forward requests; capital receipts flexibilities business cases and movements in reserves.”

Where it is stated that: ”This will include a statement on the use of the Capital Receipts Flexibilities and a fuller disclosure of the transformation projects that are being considered for funding through this mechanism.....”

Question 2: It has been reported that the Discovery negative earmarked reserve (previously minus £4.9m) has been significantly reduced by the use of Capital Receipt Flexibilities (CRF) as part of a Transformational project. Can clarity (and details of cash movements, expenditure etc.) be provided about this Transformation project in Discovery (e.g. Workforce restructuring, redundancy etc. etc.)?

Relating to GTVFM0006 Capital Receipt Flexibilities

It is stated that: “For future years business cases will be reviewed as part of the MTFP process although the Cabinet and SLT intention is to reduce the reliance on CRF use.”

Question 3: Is it anticipated that there will be fewer (CRF) Transformation projects or what other alternatives are being considered to replace these projects?