

Scrutiny of Procurement and Commissioning

Purpose

1. To agree a revised approach to scrutiny of procurement and commissioning following decision by the Overview and Scrutiny (OS) Liaison Board.

Background

2. The Council is changing its approach to how it procures and commissions goods and services in order to achieve significant efficiencies and savings. This is an important component of the Council's Business Plan. A Corporate Commissioning and Procurement Board has been established under the chairmanship of the Director of Resources which oversees the delivery of a 4 year programme.
3. Previously each of the OS select committees had a task group scrutinising performance of major contracts relevant to its service area. A review of the costs and future direction of these major contracts is included within the new programme.
4. The Organisation and Resources Select Committee has received presentations on the programme's content. It also considered a report back in November last year providing an opportunity to review the way that OS might best respond to the development of the programme ensuring effective use of councillors time and the scrutiny support resources. Further work was called for in order to take forward the views of the Committee.
5. On 10th February, the OS Liaison Board considered a report on the further work called for by the Select Committee on how scrutiny might best respond to this changing landscape. The Service Director for Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Democratic Services attended to report on recent service efficiencies which would have a bearing on the Scrutiny Team's ability to provide comprehensive and effective support in all areas. Councillors were asked to be mindful of this and their intention to focus future work on the priorities outlined in the Business Plan in making a decision.

Revised Arrangements

6. The Board agreed the proposals in the report, which in summary abolishes the existing major contracts task groups and creates a single task group under the Organisation & Resources Select Committee to scrutinise the delivery of the overall procurement and commissioning programme on a quarterly basis. Specific reporting on the performance of major contracts would continue by exception. The proposed terms of reference for the Task Group are:
 - i) Implementation of the Corporate Procurement Strategy
 - ii) Implementation of the Procurement and Commissioning Programme
 - iii) Progress on making efficiency savings
 - iv) Development of policies and supporting documents
 - v) Review of performance of individual major contracts by exception
 - vi) Referral of departmental specific procurement and commissioning issues to the relevant select committee where appropriate.
7. It was further agreed that in order to provide continuity of knowledge and a link back to the individual select committees, membership of the new task group should consist of one representative from each of the previous major contracts task groups. In addition it was also proposed that Cllr Tony Deane and Cllr Nigel Carter, who have led on a number of related activities including scrutiny of the Corporate Procurement Strategy, should be included in the membership.
8. The membership of this Select Committee's current Major Contracts Task Group is Councillors Bill Moss (Chairman), Peter Colmer, Jon Hubbard, Jacqui Lay and Carole Soden. Membership and current actives of all the existing major contracts task groups is attached for information.
9. The other three select committees have now approved the proposal and the following members have been appointed to the new Procurement & Commissioning Task Group:

Organisation & Resources	Cllr Tony Deane Cllr Nigel Carter Cllr Mark Packard
Health & Adult Social Care	Cllr Peter Hutton
Environment	Cllr Peter Doyle

Conclusion

10. The rationale to change the current scrutiny arrangements in this area is driven by the need for a more focussed and professional approach to future commissioning and procurement. This is intended to secure efficiencies and savings in the overall spend for the authority. The agreed approach by the OS Liaison Board presents the opportunity to continue to scrutinise this priority area effectively, recognising the capacity and resources available.
11. With this in mind the Liaison Board resolved that future scrutiny of procurement and commissioning would be dealt with by way of one dedicated Procurement and Commissioning Task Group which would report directly to the Organisation & Resources Select Committee. The focus of work would move away from individual contract reviews to the overall procurement and commissioning programme as a component of the Business Plan. Membership is intended to provide for continuity and to retain knowledge gained under the previous arrangements.

Recommendation:

- 1. To note the considerations given to this issue by the Overview and Scrutiny Liaison Board;**
- 2. To agree to the disbandment of the Select Committee's current Major Contracts Task Group;**
- 3. To approve the new task group arrangements for scrutinising the procurement and commissioning programme under the Organisation & Resources Select Committee; and**
- 4. To nominate a member to join the new 'Procurement and Commissioning Scrutiny Task Group' in addition to the Councillors already appointed.**

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Appendix 1

Current Arrangements for Scrutiny of Contracts and Procurement

Service Area	Process	Membership	Activity
Overview and Scrutiny Organisation and Resources Select Committee	Major Contracts Task Group	Cllr Richard Britton (Chairman) Cllr Nigel Carter Cllr Judy Rook Cllr Roy While Cllr Helen Osborn Cllr Ricky Rogers	Monkton Park Facilities Management Contract
			Energy
			Sodexo (Building Cleaning Services, Grounds Maintenance Services, County Hall Facilities Management)
	Corporate Procurement Strategy Rapid Scrutiny Exercises	Cllr Tony Deane Cllr Nigel Carter	Logica
Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee	Major Contracts Task Group	Cllr Peter Hutton (Chairman) Cllr Tom James Cllr Peter Hutton Cllr Nina Phillips Cllr Peter Davis Dr Peter Biggs (Stakeholder)	Order of St John Care Trust
			Medequip Assistive Technologies
			Tendering of the Equipment for Daily Living and Minor Adaptations contract
Children's Services Select Committee	Major Contracts Task Group	Cllr Bill Moss (Chairman) Cllr Carole Soden Cllr Jon Hubbard Cllr Jacqui Lay Cllr Peter Colmer	Quarriers
			Sodexo (School Catering)
			Sure Start Children's Centres
			White Horse Education Partnership
Environment Select Committee	Major Contracts Task Group	Cllr Peter Doyle (Chairman) Cllr Tom James Cllr Nigel Carter Cllr Peter Colmer Cllr Mark Packard	Mouchel and Ringway
			Hills Waste
			Retendering of the Salisbury and Amesbury Area Bus Contracts
			DC Leisure (although this was cancelled in light of the wider leisure review)