

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) held
at 10.00 am on Monday, 2 September 2013

Present:

Members: Councillor R Sandy (Chair)
 Councillor D Chater
 Councillor R Lakha
 Councillor J Mutton
 Councillor H S Sehmi
 Councillor T Skipper

Other Members: Councillors G Duggins, Cabinet Member (Children and Young People)

Employees (by Directorate):

V Castree, Chief Executive's Directorate
M Godfrey, People Directorate
B Hastie, Resources Directorate
A Pepper, People Directorate
J Sansom, Resources Directorate
R Sugars, Resources Directorate
S Symonds, Resources Directorate
A West, Chief Executive's Directorate

Apologies: Councillors C Miks, T Sawdon and D Skinner

Public Business

12. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interests.

13. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 July, 2013 were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

14. CLYP Fundamental Service Review

The Scrutiny Board received a presentation of the Executive Director, People, in regard to the Children, Learning and Young People Social Care and Early Intervention Fundamental Service Review. Officers outlined the background to the review and issues leading to the current position, including lessons learned for moving forward. Members raised concerns about

- the appropriateness of the model used in the context of service development, particularly as targets had slipped and there had been significant reductions in

internal foster care placements – ie were officers trying to make the model fit existing services?

- the economies and effectiveness of internal versus external foster care, including the additional costs for travelling outside of the area
- the weight given to the issues raised by the consultants at the end of their contractual input to the review
- the lack of evidence to support reported outcomes
- the impact of early intervention work on the numbers of children entering care
- the robustness of action being taken to deliver financial targets and savings

RESOLVED that

(1) Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) works with Officers and the Chair of the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) to review the model on which financial targets are based in order to seek assurance that the model is accurate and targets achievable.

(2) Officers to prepare a report to Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) and Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) detailing the impact and outcomes of early intervention work on the numbers of children entering care.

(3) Officers to prepare a report for the January 2014 meeting of Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) detailing progress and action being taken to deliver the financial targets and savings.

15. Money Matters Update

The Scrutiny Board received a presentation of the Executive Director, Resources, in regard to the replacement of the financial management system, resulting from the Money Matters Review. The review had examined all financial activity and structures throughout the Council and had concluded that the current system, Oracle, which had been in place for fifteen years, was no longer fit for purpose in the changing technological environment.

A new system, Agresso, was currently in the advanced stages of testing within the Council and was due to be deployed in December 2013.

The Board raised questions in regard to succession strategy, licensing agreements in perpetuity, initial and on-going training programmes, further development costs, and ensuring there was no duplication in regard to the joint procurement contract with Warwickshire and Solihull. The Board was happy to endorse the report.

16. Outstanding Issues Report

Outstanding issues had been picked up in the Work Programme.

17. Work Programme 2013-14

The Chair indicated that the October meeting would concentrate on the Procurement Strategy and that members of the Business, Economy and

Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) should be invited for consideration of the item. The Board considered items for the December and January meetings. The Work Programme would be updated and circulated following discussions with officers in regard to availability of information for reports and presentations.

18. Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved

There were no other items of public business.

19. Meeting Evaluation

The Board evaluated the meeting.

(Meeting closed at 12.05 pm)