

Cabinet 15/12/16 - Comments from Overview & Scrutiny

Part I

Children's Services

Delivery of Children's Services

The Children's Services O&S Panel considered the Cabinet report and fully endorsed the recommendations.

Financial Update

The Children's Services O&S Panel considered the Cabinet report and fully endorsed the recommendations

Schools Capital Programme 2017-18

The Children's Services O&S Panel considered the Cabinet report and fully endorsed the recommendations. The Panel recommended that the LEA contact schools, especially the smaller schools, informing them of any funding opportunities such as the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund via Salix Finance for energy efficient projects.

Delivery of Adult Services

The Children's Services O&S Panel considered the Cabinet report and fully endorsed the recommendations. There was some concern raised about the level of staff being transferred and the responsibilities being placed on those Councillors chosen to be the Council's representatives on the Optalis Holding Limited Board.

Corporate Services

Delivery of Children's Services

This paper was presented by an officer as no lead member for this service was at the meeting. The Corporate Services O&S Panel considered the Cabinet report asking the officer a number of questions and after they had been answered the Committee fully endorsed the recommendations.

Financial Update

The Corporate Services O&S Panel considered the Cabinet report asking the officer a number of questions and after they had been answered the Committee fully endorsed the recommendations. It was questioned and noted that there were no financial risks facing the authority in the immediate future.

Council Tax Base 2017-18

The Corporate Services O&S Panel considered the Cabinet report asking the officer a number of questions and after they had been answered the Committee fully endorsed the recommendations.

Delivery of Adult Services

This paper was presented by an officer as no lead member for this service was at the meeting.

The Corporate Services O&S Panel considered the Cabinet report asking the officer a number of questions and after they had been answered the Committee fully endorsed the recommendations.

Delivering Differently in Operations and Customer Services – Highways and Transport Services

This paper was presented by an officer as no lead member for this service was at the meeting.

In Part I - The Corporate Services O&S Panel considered the report and unanimously resolved **Not** to endorse the recommendations. The Panel felt that the report lacked the detail to endorse the recommendations, there were no detail about the legal costs required that if at the correct level of expertise would negate any savings in the report. The members though the report was at best poor!

This paper was presented by an officer as no lead member for this service was at the meeting.

In Part II - The Corporate Services O&S Panel considered the report and unanimously resolved **Not** to endorse the recommendations. The Panel felt that the report lacked the detail to endorse the recommendations, there were no detail about the legal costs for drawing up the required contract that if at the correct level of expertise would negate any savings, the cost savings in the first year did not make the recommendations viable and there was concern over the Council's track record of having water tight contracts. The Committee disputed the figures and could only see £310,000.00 worth of savings.

The Chairman was concerned that The head of Finance could not answer the question whether the cost saving would worth the risk of taking up this options.

Highways and Transport

Delivering Differently in Operations and Customer Services – Highways and Transport Services

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the Highways, Transport and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel endorses the recommendations to Cabinet that:

- i. Volker Highways Ltd is awarded the contract to provide Lot 1 – Highways Management & Maintenance for a period of five years with the option of an extension for two more years subject to satisfactory performance each year.
- ii. Lot 2 – Traffic Management and ancillary services is deferred pending further review of required services, budgets and value for money.
- iii. Project Centre Ltd is awarded the contract to provide Lot 3 – Highway & Transport Professional Services for a period of five years with the option of an extension for two more years subject to satisfactory performance each year.
- iv. The Strategic Director of Operations and Customer Services is authorised to complete the appointment process in accordance with RBWM Contract Rules in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and Lead Member for Highways and Transport.
- v. The Strategic Director of Operations and Customer Services is authorised to review and restructure the remaining Highways & Transport service to support the new operating model, subject to approval from Employment Panel in January 2017. To be developed in consultation with the Lead Member for Highways and transport and the Head of Human Resources.
- vi. Cabinet consider the option of awarding the tree inspection work (optional within the Lot 1 contract), to Volker Highways Ltd as part of the contract award

Delivering Differently in Operations and Customer Services – Civil Enforcement Officer and Community Wardens Services

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the Highways, Transport and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel endorsed the recommendations to Cabinet:

That Cabinet:

- i. Agrees the amendment of the ‘in principle’ approval given by Cabinet on 30 June 2016, removing Community Warden services from the scope of the proposal and that third party service providers now be considered for Civil Enforcement services only.
- ii. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director of Operations & Customer Services in conjunction with the Lead Member for Environmental Services to conclude a competitive procurement process for the provision of Civil Enforcement services within the Royal Borough.
- iii. Requests a further report be submitted to Cabinet in April 2017 detailing the outcome of the competitive procurement process and if

appropriate seeking authority to award a contract to the preferred bidder.

Providing Safer Routes to Charters School

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: That the Highways, Transport and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel endorsed the recommendations to Cabinet:

That Cabinet:

- i. Approves through the Local Transport Plan capital programme:
 - a. Installation of traffic signals at Dry Arch Road rail bridge incorporating a pedestrian phase.
 - b. Construction of a new footbridge on the western side of Devenish Road to the north of Elm Park
 - c. Discussion with Heathermount School to explore options for improving the narrow footway across their frontage.
 - d. Seek to secure a strip of land to the rear of the existing footway across the front of properties on Devenish Road that come forward for planning permission.
- ii. Approves allocation of £50,000 from the 2017/18 Safer Routes to Schools budget and £70,000 from the 2018/19 budget for the four pieces of work.

Adult Services

Delivery of Adult Services

The Chairman is content for Adult Services O&S to agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

Sheila Holmes:

The comprehensive business case makes it clear from what is planned that there will be economies of scale and financial savings from the proposed merger, but it is unclear how the service will be 'delivered differently'.

Whilst the Care Act 2014 encouraged diversity, quality of provision, and cooperation between Local Authorities, it also places a duty on Local Authorities to carry out their care and support functions with the aim of integrating services with those provided by the NHS . There is little in the business case that will improve the 'joint working'. At least the community services are provided jointly by Berkshire Healthcare Trust, but there are different CCGs and the geography of the Sustainability and Transformation plans are quite different.

Whilst the TUPE plan for staff is very comprehensive, it would have been useful to know what the outcome of the consultation with staff produced. It would be pleasing if there was an intention in the plan for training of RBWM

staff, particularly if there is an intention to develop more generic working of care and health staff.

It is clearly intended to monitor the changed services and included in that monitoring it would be good to have the views of the staff involved and to see if there are any implications or effects on the care of the people of RBWM.

It would have been helpful to have had some discussion with the members of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview panel on the business case, with an opportunity to question some of the rationale.

Councillor Jones: Confirmed that her queries had been answered at the meetings of Children's Services and Corporate Services.

Culture and Communities

Adoption of the Indoor Sport & Leisure Strategy and the Playing Pitch Strategy

As a document, a good piece of work, aspirational and comprehensive.
A lot of work to deliver including specific checks on all agreements including scrutiny of value for money.

Unanimously agreed and supported.

Crime & Disorder

Delivering Differently in Operations and Customer Services – Civil Enforcement Officer and Community Wardens Services

The Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel unanimously agreed to recommend to Cabinet that they:

- i. **Agreed the amendment of the 'in principle' approval given by Cabinet on June 30, 2016, removing Community Warden services from the scope of the proposal and that third party service providers now be considered for Civil Enforcement services only.**
- ii. **Delegated authority to the Strategic Director of Operations & Customer Services in conjunction with the Lead Member for Environmental Services to conclude a competitive procurement process for the provision of Civil Enforcement services within the Royal Borough.**
- iii. **Requested a further report be submitted to Cabinet in April 2017 detailing the outcome of the competitive procurement**

process and if appropriate seeking authority to award a contract to the preferred bidder.

Councillor Werner, supported by the rest of the Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel, commented that with regard to recommendation (ii) that no assumption should be made that the Council would be 'going private'. It was requested that in order to put residents first all avenues should be fully investigated before a decision was made which included contacting other Local Authorities / public sector providers and private sector providers. Parish Councillor Pat McDonald added that it would be useful to know 'best practice' so comparisons outside of the Council could be made.