

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
11th June, 2010

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor McNeely); Councillors Austen, Gilding, J. Hamilton, License, Steele, Swift and Whysall.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. A. Russell and P. A. Russell.

1. COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CLARKE

Members stood as a token of respect to the late Councillor Clarke, who had been a valued Member of this Committee.

2. NEW MEMBERS

The Chairman welcomed Councillors Steele and Whysall to their first meeting.

3. CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Nominations were noted for co-opted membership of the Scrutiny Panels.

Resolved:- That co-option arrangements be agreed with each Scrutiny Panel Chairman.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.

There were no questions from members of the public or the press.

6. PAYMENT OF INVOICES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS - FORMER BVPI8.

Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out details of the former Best Value Performance Indicator 8 which measured the payment of undisputed invoices within 30 days. The Council had agreed an average annual target of 97.5% for performance of BVPI8 for 2009/10.

Outturn performance for recent years has achieved:

2006/07	91%
2007/08	94%
2008/09	92%

Performance against BVPI8 was not as consistent as it should be and it had been recognised that the Council should act to instil and embed good practice in this area and work was ongoing to this effect.

Outturn performance for the new financial year achieved 94.65%.

If the Council under performed on BVPI8 then this may have an effect on our CPA score. Vulnerable smaller suppliers may also experience financial difficulties due to delayed payment which goes against our commitment to the SME Friendly Concordat.

Making late payments to suppliers could damage relationships between the Council and suppliers and could potentially cause cash flow difficulties for suppliers, dependant on invoice values and suppliers' turnover. It was possible that late payments could result in suppliers putting our account 'on stop' which could cause delays to Council projects. Ultimately late payment could result in the matter being referred to court.

Detailed consideration was given to all the matters set out in the report.

Resolved:- (1) That the current position in respect of BVPI8 be noted.

(2) That a report be submitted to this Committee highlighting maverick spend and relevant processes.

(3) That relevant Procurement Champions attend this Committee to detail key issues of poor performance.

7. PROCUREMENT LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.

Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out details of the local indicators developed in 2007 to measure the Council's procurement function in terms of delivery of the Procurement Strategy and day-to-day management of the procurement function. The suite of indicators was updated in 2009 to ensure effective monitoring.

The report set out details of the indicators, targets and performance for the year 2009-2010.

A number of issues were raised by the Committee.

Performance against these LPIs would reflect how the Corporate Procurement Strategy was being implemented and embedded across the Council which could impact on the Council's ability to evidence value for money and CPA/CAA scores.

Sarah was asked to raise the issues discussed today at the Procurement Panel to be held on 14th June, 2010.

Resolved:- (1) That current performance be noted.

(2) That the auditing of top suppliers for equality and diversity purposes be reviewed by the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel.

8. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY ACTION PLAN.

Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out details of the purpose of the Procurement Strategy which was to set out how the Council intended to procure its goods, works and services in order to support the Authority's overall aims and objectives over the life span of the Strategy. It outlined the Council's current position and clearly pointed to areas where we needed to improve, with a supporting action plan to deliver those areas. The action would be managed by the Council's Procurement Panel.

The Strategy was aligned with the Council's Corporate Commissioning Framework which examined how the Council could strategically pull together all commissioning activity to ensure maximum gain from any efficiencies that may be generated.

If the actions in the above plan were not met the refreshed Corporate Procurement Strategy may not be fully implemented and embedded across the Council which could impact on the Council's ability to evidence value for money and CAA scores.

Resolved:- That the current position in respect the action plan be noted.

9. DRAFT SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to a draft of the Annual Report, circulated at the meeting.

Resolved:- That any comments on the draft be forwarded to the Scrutiny Team.

10. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to this Committee's Work Programme for 2010/11.

Reference was made to a number of important issues, such as flooding, that needed continual scrutiny and also to change to occur due to the new Coalition Government.

16D PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE - 11/06/10

Resolved:- That a draft programme be developed based on today's discussion.

11. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT BOARD - TO APPOINT TWO SCRUTINY MEMBERS

The Committee expressed the view that its role was to scrutinise corporate improvement rather than be Members of the Corporate Improvement Board.

12. MEMBERS' TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL - TO APPOINT TWO SCRUTINY MEMBERS

Resolved:- That Councillors Austen and Steele be appointed.

13. MINUTES.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th April, 2010 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

14. WORK IN PROGRESS

Councillor Austen reported on the following :-

- VAR
- Councillor Hussain's portfolio
- new Council Website
- Domestic Violence/Alcohol/Drug abuse

Councillor Whysall reported upon the image and renaissance of Rotherham.

Councillor Jane Hamilton reported upon the Children's Plan.

The Chairman reported on the following:-

- floods
- NHS Rotherham
- Use of Agency Staff and Consultants

15. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.