

SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE – 6 JUNE 2023

Addendum

Item 8: Scrutiny Recommendations

At the meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee on 22 May 2023, the meeting was ended prematurely before the business on the agenda could be concluded. This included any conclusions and recommendations arising from the discussion of the Annual Asset Disposal Plan 2023-24 item, which are set out below.

As it was not possible to reconvene the meeting to consider the Waste and Street Cleansing Commissioning item, the Committee met informally with the Cabinet Member for Streets & Environment and officers to review the report. The outcomes from this discussion are also included below. This includes a suggested rewording of a recommendation from the Streets & Environment Sub-Committee on the same topic, to provide additional clarity.

ANNUAL ASSET DISPOSAL PLAN 2023-24

From the discussion of the Annual Asset Disposal Plan 2023-24 at the meeting on 22 May 2023.

Actions arising from the meeting

Following the discussion of the item at the meeting, the Committee agreed the following actions that would be followed up after the meeting:

1. To be kept up to date on the establishment and work of the Disposals and Transformation Property Board.
2. To consider which assets the Committee wishes to request analysis of the potential rental income streams for assets scheduled for disposal against the potential saving from the capital receipt.

Conclusions

Following its discussion of the report, the Scrutiny & Overview Committee reached the following conclusions:

1. Welcome the reassurance that the Mayor will have sign-off on any assets added to the list of disposals, while at the same time, officers will have delegated powers to be able to respond flexibly to the market in completing any such disposals.
2. The Committee agreed that ward councillors may be able to provide valuable local insight on the potential implications that could arise from the disposal of Council assets, particularly on those assets that were in use.
3. The Committee welcomed confirmation that individual equality impact assessments would be prepared for assets added to the disposal list that were in use or occupied.

Recommendations

Following its discussion of the report, the Scrutiny & Overview Committee reached the following recommendations:

1. That the process of adding assets to the disposal list should, as a minimum, include notifying ward councillors and where those assets are in use or occupied, there should be active engagement with ward councillors to understand and manage the local implications of the sale.
2. Recommend that any users of assets are notified as soon as possible after an asset is agreed for disposal by the Mayor, to allay any anxiety about the uncertainty on the future of their service and to give them the opportunity to present any business case that may be in the long term financial and public interests of the Council.

WASTE & STREET CLEANSING COMMISSIONING

Conclusions

Following its discussion of the report, the Scrutiny & Overview Committee reached the following conclusions:

1. The Committee welcomed the reassurance given that there was no plan to change the frequency of waste collections, as part of the commissioning of the new contract.
2. The Committee welcomed confirmation that there was addition capacity within the current system to manage a significant increase in recycling rates.
3. The Committee endorsed the approach of seeking best practice, innovation and the use of technology to drive performance within the new contract, as part of the commissioning approach.
4. Confirmation that there would continue to be an app for residents to report any issues with the waste and street cleansing services was also welcomed.
5. With the Streets & Environment Sub-Committee having recently looked at the waste and street cleansing contract procurement process, the Committee endorsed the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee, subject to the following rewording of recommendation SE.2.12/24.

RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM STREETS & ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE; 14 MARCH 2023

Item: Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Contract Specification

Arising from the meeting of the Streets & Environment Sub-Committee on 14 March 2023, the following recommendation was made: -

'Recommendation SE.2.23/24 - The Sub-Committee recommended that a dynamic approach to behavioural change was adapted as a part of any future service delivery to ensure effective engagement and communications with residents.'

Following its own review of the Waste and Street Cleansing Commissioning process, a similar recommendation was suggested by the Committee. In terms of providing additional clarity and preventing duplication, the Committee is asked to agree the following wording for submission for the consideration of the Mayor: -

‘Recommendation SE.2.23/24 – The Sub-Committee recommends that the Council plans some specific actions to help resident engagement, communication and behavioural change under the new waste contract, using data to ensure the borough’s recycling rates are maximised and that residents get the most out of the contract.’