

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission – Financial Monitoring Task Group

Date: 17 July 2019

Subject: Work programme

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

Lead member: Councillor Peter Southgate, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Recommendations:

- A. That the task group discuss and agree a small number of agenda items for future meetings, guided by but not limited to those set out in this report
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1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1.1. The terms of reference of the financial monitoring task group are:
- I. To carry out scrutiny of the council's financial monitoring information on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission;
 - II. To advise on other agenda items as requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission;
 - III. To report minutes of its meetings back to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission;
 - IV. To send via the Commission any recommendations or references to Cabinet, Council or other decision making bodies.
- 1.2. The meetings of the task group are held in public and the agenda and minutes are published on the Council's website.

2 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORTS

- 2.1. Four dates have been identified for meetings in the 2019/20 meeting cycle for the purpose of receiving the quarterly financial monitoring reports as follows:
- 17 July 2019 – outturn report for 2018/19
 - 29 August 2019 - quarter 1 financial monitoring report 2019/20
 - 12 November 2019 - quarter 2 financial monitoring report
 - 24 February 2020 - quarter 3 financial monitoring report

3 OTHER WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

- 3.1. Task group members are requested to discuss and agree a small number of items for deep-dive review at the meetings on 29 August, 12 November and 24 February.

- 3.2. Last year the task group scrutinised budget forecasting, financial risk management, use of contingency funds and reserves, debt management, financial aspects of the Veolia and Idverde contracts, learning from Lean reviews and a progress update on Merantun Development Ltd.
- 3.3. Suggestions received to date for 2019/20 are listed below.

deep dive review of the future capital programme	Referred from the Overview and Commission at meeting on 23 Jan 2019
report on lessons learned from the customer contact contract	Referred from the Commission at its meeting on 20 March 2019
allocation of grants through the voluntary sector strategic partners programme	Identified by task group as a priority area for 2019/20
scrutinise the review of the council's passenger transport service	Suggested by the Environment and Regeneration Departmental Management Team
further work and engagement on social care charging to include the development of stronger protocols and protections for disabled people being pursued by debt recovery for social care debts.	Suggested by Merton Centre for Independent Living, following the task group's discussion on debt management.
Review of Merantun performance to date and its current and mid-term business plan	Suggested by the Conservative Group.
Review of Clarion performance against contract service levels with financial review	Suggested by the Conservative Group. The Sustainable Communities O&S Panel has agreed to invite Clarion to two meetings – one to focus on estates regeneration and the other on repairs and maintenance performance.
Full review of Veolia and Idverde every six months.	Suggested by the Conservative Group. The Sustainable Communities Panel will continue to monitor performance.
Review of borough's school PFI contracts and performance vs contract service levels plus financial review.	Suggested by the Conservative Group. The PFI contracts for a number of schools will come to an end within the next 10 years. The Director of Children Schools and Families has advised that the council would need to ensure premises were returned in good repair. The Children and Young People O&S Panel agreed to receive an update on this and then to consider inviting providers to a meeting to discuss the issues.