

Overview and Scrutiny Board 25th January 2012

Strategic Commissioning

Recommendation

- 1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Board note the progress report with regard to the Phase Two recommendations of the Public Service Reform Task and Finish Group 'Breaking the Mould'.
- 2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Board consider a proposal regarding formal engagement with both the Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in respect of the implementation of the Transformation Programme.

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Public Services Reform Task and Finish Group

1.2 The Public Service Reform Task and Finish Group was commissioned by the Overview and Scrutiny Board in July 2010. Due to its scope, the review was undertaken in two phases, as follows:

- Phase One – public reform in adult social care, health, education and police services.
- Phase Two – the benefits to the Council of adopting a strategic commissioning model of service provision.

1.3 The Phase One recommendations were approved by Cabinet and subsequently, the Council adopted a strategic commissioning model as part of its Corporate Business Plan 2011-13 in February 2011.

1.4 The Phase Two recommendations were submitted by the Task and Finish Group in May 2011 and were subsequently approved by Cabinet on 30th June 2011. The purpose of this item is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Board with the first update on the implementation of those recommendations, as follows:

Recommendation 1 – The Cabinet should review whether there is sufficient capacity to carry out the data analysis required by a strategic commissioning model and should review with public sector partners whether there are additional resources that could be shared.

Recommendation 2 – The Cabinet should review with public sector partners whether commissioning cycles can be better aligned particularly around gap analysis and planning phases to ensure we are able to maximise the information we hold and our resources.

Recommendation 3 – The Overview and Scrutiny Board should scrutinise the transition plan to assess whether it is fit for purpose having regard to the seven principles set out by the Cabinet Office and the issues raised by partners set out above.

Recommendation 4 – In developing the strategic commissioning model for the Authority the Cabinet should be alert to the need to strengthen the following around procurement

- Activity around demand management
- Contract management to drive improvement
- Changing the culture of the organisation to look at cost not just price
- Market management and market intelligence

1.5 Phil Evans, Head of Service Improvement and Change Management, will be in attendance at the meeting to provide a verbal update on each of the four recommendations.

1.6 The Transformation Programme

1.7 In order to achieve the Council's commitment towards strategic commissioning, a Transformation Programme has been developed which outlines the process by which the all existing Council services will be fundamentally reviewed over a three-year period. The Programme was approved by Council on 13th December 2011.

1.8 At its last meeting on 20th December 2011, the Overview and Scrutiny Board requested that the Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees be engaged in the implementation of the Transformation Programme and receive regular progress updates.

1.9 Phil Evans will be in attendance at the meeting to present a proposed process to fulfil the requirement of the Board.

2.0 Timescales associated with the decision/Next steps

2.1 Public Services Reform Task and Finish Group

2.2 The Board may wish to schedule further updates on the recommendations in due course, until a complete implementation of all recommendations has been achieved.

2.3 Transformation Programme

2.4 It would be beneficial for the Board to agree to adopt a formal member engagement process and to update the Work Programme accordingly.

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