



This is an open report

10c(iii)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee No. 3 - Tendering

10 November 2008

Present at the meeting

Councillor Mrs M J Whiteside (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs B Bourne
Councillor B J Fagan
Reverend Deacon R Moore (co-opted Member)

.1 Apologies for absence: Councillors H L Cadman, G W Fairhurst and G Wilkes.

.2 Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of this Select Committee held on 3 November were approved as a correct record.

Resolved: The Select Committee:

- Approves the minutes as an accurate record.

.3 Progress to date: The Select Committee discussed the general progress to date. The Policy Officer tabled a work plan.

Resolved: The Select Committee:

- agrees the work plan; and
- agrees to consider the work plan in more detail.

.4 Work Plan – Issue 1: current tendering procedures: The Select Committee discussed its findings from the meeting with the Head of Corporate Procurement. There was some debate around the issues of accountability and contract management.

Resolved: The Select Committee:

- is satisfied with the documentation, demonstrating the procedure rules and the process, provided by the Head of Corporate Procurement;
- agrees that the rules used by the Council are standard practice; and
- agrees to examine the practices relating to “standing lists” in other public bodies, and the process which decides who should be on these.

.5 Work Plan - Issue 2: ensuring probity: The Select Committee discussed its findings from the presentation given by Internal Audit.

Resolved: The Select Committee:

- agrees that the presentation gave examples of good and bad practice;
- agrees to ask the Head of Risk Management for his report on the exceptions to standing lists;
- agrees to ask the Head of Risk Management if any recommendations were made by the Audit Commission in relation to tendering; and
- agrees to request samples of audit reports referring to tendering.

.6 Work Plan – future direction: The Select Committee discussed its future direction.

Resolved: The Select Committee:

- agrees to examine some examples from the contracts register and ensure that they are representative of internal departments;
- agrees to examine the legal responsibilities of the Council when tendering contracts fail to deliver;
- agrees to ask a variety of private companies if they will share their practices with the Select Committee; and
- agrees to examine whether the Council could benefit from a greater level of collaborative tendering.

.7 Dates and time of next meeting: Resolved: The next meetings of Select Committee No.3 will be held on: -

- 1 December 2008 at 4pm
- 8 December 2008 at 4pm
- 12 January 2009 at 4pm

Chairman