

Questions from Councillor S Sankey – Scrutiny (Value for Money) Committee

1. Could the relevant cabinet member give an oral report on progress addressing the recommendations contained within the Disabilities Facilities Grant scrutiny review?

Considering the first recommendation to provide the committee with an annual DFG report and a six monthly update, a six month review will be provided in December and the annual report will follow in July 2024. Looking at the second point which suggested target reductions for stage 1-4, a target reduction of 10% on 22/23 performance has now been identified in the service plan. A further update on progress will be provided in the six month review. In terms of the third point from the recommendations and the suggestion that satisfaction surveys are applied following stage 4 completion, I can confirm that satisfaction questionnaires have been drafted and that they will be in use from 1st August 2023. Regarding Trent and Dove and encouragements to appropriately complete their Adapted Housing Register, this is something which is planned for the future and, finally, considering the staffing proposals these will of course be considered in the annual review.

2. Could the relevant cabinet member give an oral report on progress addressing the recommendations contained within the Mayoralty scrutiny review?

The Borough Solicitor/Monitoring Officer will attend the meeting to update the Committee.

3. Could the relevant cabinet member give an oral report on progress addressing the recommendations contained within the IT scrutiny review?

Councillor M Fitzpatrick will be attending the meeting to update the Committee.

4. Can future scrutiny committee meetings have a standing item(s) that report progress on all outstanding scrutiny review actions.

As detailed in the Constitution, a Scrutiny Committee has the ability to co-ordinate and manage its scrutiny programme. As such the Committee may agree what items could be on agendas, which can include reviewing progress against previous recommendations.

5. Given the recently announced 6 month delay to the critically important Washlands project. Could the relevant cabinet member report to scrutiny the financial impact of the delay. Additionally could the relevant cabinet member identify what risk materialised and was it on the risk register?

The tender for the Washlands contract has not yet been awarded. It is expected that the main works will begin in the spring of 2024, as

opposed to later this year. There are no direct financial implications arising from this. The tender submission prices are made on this basis and are within the project budget [without impacting the contingency allowance]. As a result, there is no need to reduce the scope of the project or the selection of materials.

The risk of programme delays caused by the procurement timeframe, especially the selection of appropriate contractors, was identified in the Council report, December 2022. Therefore, the position we find ourselves in is not unexpected.

In reality, moving the start date to next spring further lessens the risk of any financial impact caused by poor weather conditions: such as demobilising the site or working around flood or wet conditions.