

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD – 13TH JUNE 2018

Report of the Head of Strategic Support Cabinet Lead Member – Councillor Leigh Harper-Davies

ITEM 7 DECENT HOMES CONTRACT SCRUTINY PANEL – FURTHER UPDATE REPORT

Purpose of Report

To enable the Board to further consider the implementation of decision 7 taken by the Cabinet following its consideration of the report of the Decent Homes Contract Scrutiny Panel and what, if any, further action may be required.

Cabinet decision 7 is the only decision which the Board has not yet confirmed as complete with no further monitoring required. At the Board's meeting on 25th October 2017, discussion was focused on the issue to which Cabinet decision 7 relates (retention of staff by the current contractor as the contract approached its end), in particular the risks associated with that, whether any difficulties were being experienced and how the position was being managed and the contingency arrangements in place. The Board considered that it would be useful to be informed in due course of what had been experienced in the remaining months of the current contract and whether the risk had transpired.

Recommendation

That the Board consider the information provided in respect of the implementation of decision 7 taken by the Cabinet following its consideration of the report of the Decent Homes Contract Scrutiny Panel and for that decision determine whether:

- the implementation is complete or sufficiently complete and no further monitoring is required;
- the implementation is not complete and a further update for the Board is required, or
- the implementation is not complete or other issues with the implementation are identified and a recommendation or advice to the Cabinet is required.

Reason

To enable the Board to be satisfied that decisions taken following scrutiny recommendations are being implemented satisfactorily, take or recommend any further action that is necessary and ensure the effectiveness of the scrutiny function.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

On 18th February 2016, the Cabinet considered the findings and recommendations of the Decent Homes Contract Scrutiny Panel.

As part of the process for ensuring the effectiveness of the scrutiny function the Board receives a report setting out the Cabinet's responses to scrutiny recommendations and a later report on the implementation of the decisions taken by

the Cabinet. These later reports are usually considered by the Board 6 months after the Cabinet decisions are made.

On 23rd March 2016, the Board considered a report setting out the Cabinet's responses to the Decent Homes Contract Scrutiny Panel's recommendations. On 26th October 2016, the Board considered a report on the implementation of those Cabinet decisions and resolved as follows:

1. *that it be noted that implementation is complete in respect of the Cabinet decisions 1-6 and no further monitoring is required;*
2. *that it be noted that implementation is not complete in respect of Cabinet decisions 7-12 and a further update on those be submitted to the Board at its meeting in October 2017.*

Reasons

1. *The Board was satisfied that the decisions had been satisfactorily implemented.*
2. *Decisions 7-12 required actions in the future, therefore it was appropriate to monitor implementation of those in 12 months' time.”*

Thereafter, on 25th October 2017, the Board considered a further report on the implementation of Cabinet decisions 7-12 and resolved as follows:

- “1. *that a further, brief update in respect of Cabinet decision 7 be submitted to the Board's meeting in June 2018;*
2. *that it be noted that implementation is complete in respect of the Cabinet decisions 8-12 and no further monitoring is required.*

Reasons

1. *Cabinet decision 7 was the only decision not yet marked as complete in the report and the Board's discussion at this meeting focused on this issue (retention of staff by the current contractor as the contract approached its end and the risks associated with that, whether any difficulties were being experienced and how the position was being managed and the contingency arrangements in place). The Board considered that it would be useful to be informed in due course of what had been experienced in the remaining months of the current contract and whether the risk had transpired.*
2. *The Board was satisfied that the decisions had been satisfactorily implemented.”*

Decision 7 taken by the Cabinet is set out in the Appendix to this report, and also includes the current status of the actions undertaken following that decision, set out in the form of a table.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

There would not normally be any further reports to the Board on the implementation of decisions taken following scrutiny recommendations. The Board may however decide that further updates are necessary or may choose to make further recommendations to the Cabinet.

Report Implications

Implications are as set out in the appended table where relevant.

Background Papers

1. Scrutiny Management Board 25th October 2017 – Item 6 and Minute 24
 2. Scrutiny Management Board 26th October 2016 – Item 8 and Minute 23
 3. Scrutiny Management Board 23rd March 2016 – Item 13
 4. Cabinet 18th February 2016 – Item 6 and Minute 100
 5. Scrutiny Management Board 27th January 2016 – Item 10 and Minute 35
 6. Decent Homes Contract Scrutiny Panel Agendas and Notes:

Meeting 1 (Informal) – 28th September 2015; Meeting 2 – 26th October 2015;
Meeting 3 – 23rd November 2015; Meeting 4 – 7th December 2015;
Meeting 5 – 11th January 2016; Meeting 6 – 24th May 2016;
Meeting 7 – 18th October 2016

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Cabinet Decisions Following Consideration of Panel Report	Actions Taken to Implement Decisions (including estimated completion date if appropriate)	Status
<p>Minute 100-7</p> <p>(i) That in order to implement Panel recommendation 7, the Council should monitor the retention of project management staff by Wates.</p> <p><i>REASON</i></p> <p><i>(i) To enable the Council to be aware of issues which may affect the delivery of the contract.</i></p> <p>(ii) That it be noted that this will be monitored and that there has been stability in recent months.</p> <p><i>REASON</i></p> <p><i>(ii) To acknowledge the comments of the Head of Landlord Services.</i></p>	<p>Response of the Head of Landlord Services</p> <p>(i) & (ii) The Divisional Manager and Project Manager posts remained consistent until the end of the contract on 31st March 2018.</p> <p>There are a number of works where handover is pending. Liaison with the Divisional Manager is ongoing in this respect.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>