

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 24 September 2020 at 4.00 pm in Virtual Remote Meeting

Commenced 4.00pm
Concluded 5.30 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AND INDEPENDENT GROUP
Kamran Hussain Watson Tait Mir T Hussain Thirkill	Riaz	Griffiths

Councillor in the Chair

Apologies: Cllrs Azam, Green, Shafiq.

91. **ALTERNATE MEMBERS (Standing Order 34)**

Cllr T Hussain for Cllr Azam
Cllr Thirkill for Cllr Green
Cllr Mir for Cllr Shafiq

92. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

93. **INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

There were no appeals submitted to review decisions to restrict documents.

94. **REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no referrals to the Committee.

95. **CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) AND CORPORATE UNIFORMS**

The report was seeking to inform members of a forthcoming procurement and award of new contract(s), for Personal Protective Equipment, (PPE) and Corporate Uniform for a term of three years from 12 December 2020 to 11 December 2022, with an option of a one year extension, subject to satisfactory performance of the appointed supplier(s).

The expenditure across the current contract has averaged at around £262,000 per year until the start of the pandemic in March 2020. Expenditure from March 2020 to August 2020 currently stands at £9.7m, approximately £1.6m per month.

Members were keen to explore the approaches being used by Bradford Council officers to assist local suppliers.

In response, officers indicated that as part of the procurement framework, they would be looking at local providers and would also be undertaking marketing and advertising at a local level.

Resolved-

(1) That the option for an open OJEU (Official Journal of the European Union) tender for the provision of personal protective equipment be undertaken by the Council with the framework divided into lots to encourage SMEs (small, medium enterprises) and local suppliers to bid for Council's business be supported.

(2) That the comments raised by members at the meeting be taken into consideration during this procurement exercise.

Action: Strategic Director, Corporate Resources

(Ian Westlake – 07971 540171)

96. ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S EQUALITY ACTION PLAN 2016-2020 AND CONSULTATION ON DRAFT EQUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR 2020-2024

The report provided Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee members with the final annual progress update relating to Bradford Council's current Equality Action Plan and also outlined how the Council has delivered against its Equality Objectives for 2016-20. The report also presents for consultation drafts of the Council's Equality Objectives for 2020-2024 and a draft Equality Action Plan.

This report also acknowledged that whilst there was some areas where the Council had made good progress, there are other areas where the Council still had more to do and this needed to be embedded as part of the revised Equality Objectives and Equality Plan.

Members enquired about how Bradford Council staff could complain if they felt

discriminated against.

In response, officers highlighted that staff can raise their concerns through the Bradford Councils grievance process or the Councils whistle blowing process. Officers also stated that an Human Resources helpline had been introduced during the Pandemic, for staff to be able to raise any concerns.

Members were concerned that it had taken up to a year to carry out the staff engagement exercise.

Officers stated that they had undertaken staff engagement previously and also meet the Chief Executive sessions, with the focus of these sessions being on the lived experience of staff. Further to this, monthly staff had been undertaken prior to the lockdown.

Councillors were also concerned that there were only two ethnic minority Directors in the Council and they were in Children's Services. Therefore members were keen to explore what the position was in other Council departments and how this underrepresentation was being addressed.

Bradford Council officers indicated that all departments worked collectively in relation to recruitment, but there was room for improvement. Members heard that having balanced recruitment panels was helpful. Officers also said that they needed to work through the development opportunities for ethnic minority staff and developing shadowing, mentoring and leadership management programmes. Officers acknowledged that they did need to more in this area.

Members were in agreement that they wanted to keep an overview of the Equality Objectives for the Council.

Resolved-

(1) That it be recommended that the Executive approves the proposals contained within the report (Document "H").

(2) That a progress report relating to the Equality Objectives 2020-24, be presented to this Committee in six months time.

Action: Acting Assistant Director, Office of the Chief Executive

(Philip Witcherley – 01274 431241)

97. CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

The report included the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2020-21, as well as the list of unscheduled topics.

The work programme also contained details of the scrutiny reviews, that the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee, is currently undertaking.

Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee members discussed and made amendments to the work programme. Members also discussed the scrutiny reviews which the Committee is undertaking and particularly focused on the Hate Crime Scrutiny review and individuals and groups that still need to be engaged with, as part of the consultation phase of the scrutiny review.

Resolved-

That Members considered the work programme and agreed to complete the informal information gathering sessions for the Hate Crime and Fireworks Scrutiny Reviews and to then commence the Domestic Violence Scrutiny Review.

Action: City Solicitor

(Mustansir Butt – 01274 432575)

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

THIS AGENDA AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER