

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 30 June 2022 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 5.00 pm
Concluded 7.45 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Azam Nazir D Green Arshad Hussain	F N Ahmed	J Sunderland

Observers: Councillor B Stubbs

Apologies: Councillors S Akhtar, N Mohammed, M Nazam, Loy and J Clarke

Councillor Azam in the Chair

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In the interest of transparency Councillor Green declared a personal interest in that he was employed by a recipient of Welfare Advice funding (Minute 6). He confirmed that he did not receive any funding from those contracts and remained in the meeting during discussions and voting on that item.

ACTION: Interim City Solicitor

2. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2022 be signed as a correct record.

Action: Interim City Solicitor

3. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

4. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The following referral has been made to this Committee up to and including the date of publication of this agenda.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION - CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

(Previous reference: Minute 57 Governance and Audit Committee -2021/22)

The Governance and Audit Committee, at its meeting on 21 April 2022, whilst discussing amendments to the Constitution – Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, resolved, amongst other things:

(1) That the Social Value Procurement Policy be referred to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration when the policy is reviewed.

The Committee was asked to note the referral listed above and decide how it wished to proceed, for example by incorporating the item into the work programme, requesting that it be subject to more detailed examination, or refer it to an appropriate Working Group/Committee.

Resolved –

The Committee agreed that the Social Value Procurement Policy be considered, when the policy is reviewed.

(Mustansir Butt 07582 101597)

5. COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION - ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE BRADFORD 2 AND BRADFORD 10 AREAS

Members were reminded that any Member may refer any local government matter to the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee. In considering whether to refer a matter, the Member must have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

A Call for Action was received from a Member regarding anti-social behaviour in the BD2 and BD10 areas as detailed below:

Following a number of incidents of antisocial behaviour and vandalism in the Eccleshill ward over the past year. I am now requesting that you take steps to implement a Councillors Call to Action as set out in the Councils Constitution.

With Bus services, Swimming Pool, businesses and residents in the BD2 and 10 areas regularly subjected to vandalism, anti-social behaviour and threats of violence. There has been little impact from interventions from the Police and other agencies to date.

Previous multi agency meetings have failed to bring everyone together and months on from the last such meeting the problems persist today.

Residents are suffering from regular withdrawals of services and reputational damage as a result of the behaviour of a small minority. I believe that there is no other choice left than to take this step.

It was confirmed that the request did comply with constitutional requirements (Part3E Paragraph 4).

The Member attended the meeting and made representations as to why it would be appropriate for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to exercise its functions in relation to the matter.

His presentation to Members detailed quotations and references from members of the public and the police and included that residents were afraid to go out in the area in the evenings; that they were fearful that their properties and vehicles would be broken into or vandalised; they worried about their children travelling to school in that location and they felt stressed and fearful in the area.

The Councillor referred to buses being attacked; assaults on the local swimming pool staff; businesses being vandalised, including a food bank; intimidating behaviour in the street; drug use; and bad driving. It was stressed that the anti-social behaviour had resulted in no go areas for residents and that the situation was wearing and miserable for people living in that location.

It was reported that over 50% of calls to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service had been as a result of anti-social behaviour and in the previous two days two cars had been set alight and rolled the slope onto a residential property. Buses had been cancelled and re-routed on numerous occasions; taxis refused to service the area; youth activities had been withdrawn and unaccompanied children were banned from the local swimming pool. The impact on residents was reported with 39% of residents suffering personally from the withdrawal of services; stress and fear was experienced by people living in the area and almost 20% of those surveyed had talked about wanting to move away.

It was acknowledged that anti-social behaviour was not new in the Bradford district or unique to the area under discussion, however, statistics from West Yorkshire Police had identified the BD2 and BD10 areas as the worst for ASB.

Attacks on buses in the area were described together with the difficulty in retrieving evidence of those incidents due to the incompatibility of security and information technology specifications of the police computer systems and the bus operators. As both those organisations fell under the remit of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority it was felt incredulous that a lack of training or technology was resulting in justice being stalled.

An incident occurring at the Industrial Museum, where the CCTV images were unable to be viewed by the police, was cited as an example of the incompatibility of systems.

In summation Members were informed that the Call for Action was presented following years of work with Council officers; the police and other agencies and despite the police's Operation Steerside; youth service provision; neighbourhood watch schemes and repeated action days' young people were being drawn into

criminality, relationships between the generations were at breaking point and the majority of people were losing hope that the situation would ever improve.

It was reiterated that systems and processes in place were not working; crime reports often resulted in no action; nine out of ten thefts did not result in conviction and vandalism was cleared up time and again without any meaningful way to prevent recurrence.

Members were asked to launch an enquiry into measures to tackle the problem with a particular focus on the following:

- How young people could be diverted away from the routes into ASB.
- How the Council and other authorities could better work together and support organisations and staff on the front line.
- What further preventative steps authorities could take to limit the opportunities for anti-social and criminal behaviour.
- Ensure that justice was done and seen to be done.
- Restore the faith of the 99% plus of residents that their neighbourhood is safe, friendly and calm.

Members were urged not to lose the opportunity to show residents that they were listening and ready to act.

Following the very detailed presentation Members questioned the response rate to the survey results quoted in the Member's presentation and it was confirmed that the survey had commenced four weeks previously and was ongoing. Responses from 200 to 300 residents had been received to date.

A Member acknowledged historical problems of ASB and referred to assurances received six or seven years previously that the situation would be rectified. He recognised that this had not happened and suggested that if an enquiry was conducted, whilst happy for the area under discussion to form the core of the enquiry, he believed that the geographical area should be widened across the district and the focus of investigations clarified at the onset.

Issues in the Toller Ward on bonfire night four years ago were reported by a Member representing that area. It was explained that an action plan had been developed with the police, ward officers and youth service and had eased the situation. It was believed that there were a range of measures which could also be undertaken to address the issues under discussion.

It was recognised that Incommunities and social landlords were experienced with dealing with ASB and suggested that private landlords should be included in any enquiry. Concerns were expressed that tenants evicted from social landlords for ASB were moving to private landlord accommodation and no action was taken on future ASB.

Other Members agreed that there was no doubt that ASB was a big issue and suggested that any future enquiry should include the police presenting reports depicting facts and figures and attend to answer Members' queries. It was suggested that the BD2 and BD10 areas could be rated as number one for ASB due to amended ways of recording. Incidents in the Toller area were reported

and it was explained that due to one very serious incident in the ward, which gained the area a high score in the points rating, had increased the rating of that ward greatly despite that being a single offence. Members were advised that a report was scheduled for the Safer Communities Work Plan Performance for presentation at the December meeting.

A proposal by the Chair that an enquiry should be district wide was supported although one Member advised focusing on four or five areas with specific issues as he believed that a district wide enquiry could dilute the issues.

An opposing view was provided by a Member suggesting that widening an enquiry could belittle the lived experiences of people in the BD2 and BD10 area. She felt that West Yorkshire Police being unable to view images from other systems was ridiculous; that the police had received funding for information technology to predict and prevent crime and that other authorities were doing much better on ASB issues. It was stressed that all people deserved a better response to the issues raised and that communities should not be pitted against each other.

Concerns were expressed that a recent television programme about the district had raised issues which were frightening. It was suggested that the reasons for that behaviour should be investigated and consideration given to what other authorities and agencies were undertaking in relation to ASB. An understanding of why people were dissatisfied and had lost faith in the police should be sought.

It was recommended that an enquiry should look at particular topics for example young people not in school.

The lack of guidance on Councillor Calls for Action nationally was also raised as a concern.

In response to suggestions by the Committee the Member who had raised the Call for Action explained that he was not against widening the geographical area of an enquiry.

He believed that the way the Council worked with West Yorkshire Police; Transport, Trading Standards, housing associations and other agencies all had a part to play in addressing the issues.

He questioned why there were empty properties or badly designed housing estates in the area. He suggested, for example, that solutions could be found to prevent quad bike riders using rat runs around the district.

It was explained that he had requested a meeting with the Mayor of West Yorkshire but had received only a cursory response. Despite him attending numerous multi-agency meetings and action days the problems persisted. He had hoped that a meeting with the Mayor, including the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Police and other agencies providing services in the area could address the issues still being experienced.

Members agreed that an enquiry be commenced and suggested that terms of reference for that enquiry should be the focus suggested by the Member

requesting the enquiry as follows-

- How young people could be diverted away from the routes into ASB.
- How the Council and other authorities could better work together and support organisations and staff on the front line.
- What further preventative steps authorities could take to limit the opportunities for anti-social and criminal behaviour.
- Ensure that justice was done and seen to be done.
- Restore the faith of the 99% plus of residents that their neighbourhood is safe, friendly and calm.

Resolved –

The Committee agreed to undertake a review into anti-social behaviour, across the whole of the District.

(Mustansir Butt – 07582 101597)

6. WELFARE ADVICE SERVICES ACROSS THE DISTRICT - PROCUREMENT OF A CONTRACT OVER £2M IN VALUE

Members were reminded that contracts with a total estimated value of £2 million and above must be reported to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Reports must be provided at an early stage of the process once a draft procurement strategy and specifications have been developed for consideration by Members.

The report of the Director of Public Health, (**Document “A”**) outlined, for Members’ information, existing Welfare Advice services across the district as funded by Bradford Council; detailed current delivery systems and recommended that a new procurement process was instigated to identify future service options and needs.

The report revealed that commissioned Welfare Advise services in Bradford were delivered through five separate contracts. Four were constituency based (Shipley and Keighley were combined) and one was for people with long term and/or complex health conditions. There were four lead providers who employed a combination of sub-contractors and/or partners to support service delivery. These were;

Bradford and Airedale Citizens Advice Bureau and the Law Centre, Equality Together, Family Action and St Vincent De Paul/CHAS. Full details of the providers were appended to the report.

Members were advised that the service was commissioned in 2016/17 for a period of 4 years plus one. In 2020/21, due to COVID, contracts were extended by one year to end on the March 31st 2023. A new commissioning process had started to identify and source future services.

It was explained that Transformation Pilots had been commenced with a consultancy firm in 2018/19 to explore demand in respect of commissioned Welfare vice service and the relationship between those and those of the Council’s own Customer Contacts service. The results of those pilots were

detailed in Document “A”. Details of a further three pilots starting shortly and to test the assumptions made were also contained in the report.

The report revealed that there may be the facility to extend the existing contracts for a further 3-6 months to allow time for a more robust new procurement process to be delivered and for the outcome of transformation pilots to be evaluated.

Responses to a public survey and stakeholder event were reported. The survey had received 450 returns and showed there was a keen interest in the services for the future.

A Member believed that a response of 450 across the district was meaningless and suggested that future consultations should be adequately resourced.

He felt it was difficult to consider alternative options from the information in the report and he questioned if there were potential economies of scale by reducing the five contracts. In response it was confirmed that this was possible as there were four lead providers for the contracts but that could have a negative impact and smaller organisations could be lost. City Centre services were welcomed but people did want locally based services. In previous years there had been over 20 contracts and, therefore, higher management costs.

It was explained that anti-poverty groups were speaking to people with lived experience and were currently pulling together their findings. Welfare advice was not only needed by people on benefits and the needs of people who were in work but were having to use food banks to keep afloat was being analysed.

A Member questioned existing contracts appended to the report and requested a breakdown of funding in Bradford West. It was agreed that the information would be provided after the meeting.

It was questioned how city centre services worked together and how residents with issues requiring contact with different services were resolved. It was explained that the Council’s Customer Contact Centre could fast track such issues.

Concern was expressed that people on Universal Credit or those trying to sort out debt would be unable to afford trips to the city centre to access support. It was questioned what, within the proposals, would support those residents. It was also queried what level of support was available to people who had lost their Disability Living Allowance. It was explained that there was no ‘magic bullet’ for those issues but they were noted and would be considered when working with housing and revenues and benefits services. Equality Together, an organisation for disabled people, their carers and families, aimed to support people with long term health conditions.

It was questioned if there was anything contained in the contracts to ensure advisors supported people with future needs and would there be follow up with residents once their initial issues had been dealt with. It was agreed that this was a good suggestion to incorporate.

A Member reported that General Practitioners were funded to record people with

learning disabilities and were paid for that register whether residents used their services or not. It was suggested that those people registering with the GPs could be provided with welfare advice. It was explained, in response, that GPs had previously had access to welfare advice sessions in their surgeries and that provision was well used in some and not in others. Much of that had been removed when funding was cut and providers had to look at where they were needed most.

In response the Member requested that as those people were known to GPs and their funding was restricted to one year only, consideration should be given to timely measures to support those people prior to them losing funds and having to start the lengthy application process again.

How service provider's performance was monitored was questioned and it was explained that although service usage by postcode was recorded outcomes were not documented within the contract terms. The new contracts would contain strengthened monitoring arrangements to include for example the number of evictions prevented or immigration cases assisted. It was questioned how it was known if services were providing value for money and it was explained that a formula was devised when the contracts were let seven years ago. There was some monitoring of outcomes and additional work on that was being conducted. Assurances were provided that the contracts would not be let on the same basis again. In response the Member who had raised monitoring issues expressed disappointment that there were not basic indicators and that assurances could not be provided that the contracts had fulfilled what they were intended to do.

It was questioned if people who accessed services outside of their constituency were recorded in their home constituency or where they had accessed help. It was also suggested that when the new contracts were awarded they specified the goals and aims of that contract and that those issues were measured. It was recommended, for example, that details of follow up for time expired support be included.

In response it was reported that every organisation providing welfare advice operated case management systems that could identify individuals; it would be possible to integrate those statistics into other management systems and could include indicators to provide follow up support. Management systems also provided postcode information on people who had used services but this was not specific for individual services. The systems removed double counting to ensure records of people accessing were accurate. In response to questions about systems to ensure people accessing services outside of their local constituency could be flagged to question why they were not using local services it was reported that systems were sophisticated and could highlight if people were accessing through various routes.

A Member referring to difficulties in accessing appointments requested that contracts be devised to ensure easy access to services. She reported her experience of services closing due to staff sickness or staff leaving early for the day and requested that performance indicators include hours of operation and availability.

Resolved –

(1) This Committee request that the comments and suggestions raised by members be considered during this procurement process.

(2) This Committee requests that a review of its previous contracted delivery, be undertaken and presented to this Committee.

(Sarah Possingham – 07582 100244)

**7. ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES ACROSS THE DISTRICT -
PROCUREMENT OF A CONTRACT OVER £2M IN VALUE**

Members were aware that contracts with a total estimated value of £2 million and above must be reported to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Reports must be provided at an early stage of the process once a draft procurement strategy and specification had been developed for consideration by Members.

The report of the Director of Public Health, (**Document “B”**) outlined, for Members’ information, the position of Alcohol and/or Drug services in the district and the intention to commission those services under section 7.2.1 (Part 3G) of the Council’s standing orders in relation to contracts of over £2million in value.

The report revealed that Alcohol and/or Drug services in the Bradford district were last procured in 2016/17 as one integrated contract. The contract was awarded to Change, Grow, Live (CGL), a national organisation. To deliver the contract, CGL employed two local agencies, The Bridge Project and Project 6 as sub-contractors, who complemented CGL’s clinically based services, offering a range of recovery options and activities, community based support options and specific services for carers and/or significant others.

The new contract would be awarded to one provider with sub providers delivering local support. Officers were working with partners in the Clinical Commissioning Group and across relevant Council departments to identify future service needs and create appropriate commissioning systems to re-source provision to meet that need.

It was reported that the Council had investment from the Public Health Grant of approximately £5 million into Alcohol and / or Drug Services. New funding had been granted by the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) of £9,228,611 as Supplementary Grant for the next three years to 2025. The Council had also successfully bid from the Rough Sleepers Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG) a sum of £461,090.50 annually to 2025.

The total investment proposed for the services to 1 April 2025 was £7.2 million annually which meant the service would be in a much better financial position and could procure a good service for the people of the district.

Services forming part of the contract were reported in Document “B”. The number of people in alcohol and drug misuse treatment in Bradford during 2021-22 was reported as 3559. A breakdown of opiate, non-opiate and non-opiate and alcohol clients was provided. It was reported that 27% of those using opiates and

non-opiates were reported as living with a child under 18; whilst the number for people using services for alcohol and living with a child under 18 was 33%.

It was explained that detailed consultation work had commenced including focus groups; surveys; GP consultation and stakeholder events and had provided important feedback. Document “B” informed Members what was intended to be procured. Members were informed that alcohol and drug services included treatment based and recovery services and there was a need to buy a whole service encompassing recovery models. Appended to the report was the Substance Misuse Services Review and Needs Assessment at 31 October 2021 and provided a detailed account of a needs gaps assessment; consultation approach; general public online survey; service user online survey; user focus groups; key learnings from consultations; GP online survey; key learnings from stakeholder events and consultations; overall findings and areas for further development and consideration.

Following a detailed presentation, a Member questioned the limited responses to consultation. In response it was explained that service users were a difficult group to engage but officers were confident that they had worked with sufficient people with lived experience and their carers.

It was questioned if performance data included in the 31 October 2021 report was up to date and it was confirmed that it was current at the time of the publication. The number of opiate related deaths in the UK was reported as over 2000 and the figure in Bradford was queried. It was explained that those figures were not available but it was known that the figure had fallen. Limited resources had prevented the service conducting the work it wished but with increased resources there was now a dedicated post to review those statistics.

It was acknowledged that the number of people in treatment was small and questioned how this compared to neighbouring authorities. It was confirmed that the numbers in Bradford were worse than the national average. A lot of financial resources had been cut from the service and this showed in performance. Work had been undertaken to keep people stable but the service had not been able to provide wider recovery work.

It was questioned if the service reached out to all communities and it was explained that it was intended but had not happened. Anonymised buildings should have been available but that had not occurred. The service had been admonished for not using the health service software ‘System One’ and this had taken time to redress. Fourteen contracts were reduced to one and 170 people had been made redundant.

The current contract was issued seven years ago and notice had been given to terminate that at the end of March 2023. For the first time in a number of years’ financial resources were being put into the service.

In response to questions it was confirmed that service user numbers were static and caseloads were below 40. People could access support in home or in hospital. A lot of preventative medicines were available and overdoses could be reversed. Officers felt encouraged that increased financial resources would allow the work required to be conducted.

A Member suggested it would be useful to receive a performance report at the end of the contracts.

The district joint strategy Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) was welcomed and it was questioned where in the contract that work would be included. In response it was explained that there would be a section included in the contract and outcomes for people with addiction with children would be monitored.

That Member, in response to the reply, referred to 40% of people who were addicted to drugs or alcohol having a child in their family. That resulted in 900 children living in families with an addict. It was felt that, in the main, those families were not being helped and she needed to understand the support available to those people. There were a significant number of children experiencing toxic trauma and she had seen a lot of traumatised children. Assurances were provided that the service were dealing with adults and that they could support the families and children. The service had no policy on that subject but were working with colleagues in Children's Services on that issue. In response it was stressed that strategies to build resilience were needed as a matter of urgency.

The numbers of people in treatment were reported, however, the number of service users in general was requested and it was agreed that the details of the prevalence of drug and / or alcohol addiction would be provided after the meeting. National average figures were available at Appendix three to the report.

The contribution that drug and/or alcohol usage had on anti-social behaviour and the demands on the NHS; police and Children's Services was raised. It was queried if the service could support, financially, those agencies to reduce long term costs of future addiction. Issues in the city centre with areas becoming gathering points for people with drug/alcohol issues were reported. In response it was explained that there were clear requirements for the use of funding. In the last six months an Alcohol and Drug Strategy Group had been developed with partners. The findings of that strategy group would be monitored and supported if possible.

It was reiterated that, in previous years, GPs had been trained to treat addiction in their surgeries. The increased funding may make it possible to resume that initiative.

The service aimed to produce a strategy by the end of the year which would include priorities and determine actions required. A Member suggested that this should be a wider strategy not just including treatment options.

Resolved –

- (1) This Committee requests that the comments raised by members, be considered during this procurement process.**
- (2) This Committee requests that a report relating to the level of support available for children living in families where there is an addiction, be presented to this Committee.**

(3) This Committee requests that the Drug and Alcohol Strategy be presented to this Committee, when it is available.

(Sarah Possingham – 07582 100244)

8. END USER COMPUTER EQUIPMENT - PROCUREMENT OF A CONTRACT OVER £2M IN VALUE

The report of the Director of Finance, (**Document “C”**) was provided to advise Members of the forthcoming procurement exercise for the supply of End User Computing equipment with a value in excess of £2 million. Members were advised of the intention to commission those services under section 7.2.1 (Part 3G) of the Council's standing orders prior to the commencement of the procurement process.

The report revealed that the existing contract was with Bechtle Direct Ltd which would end in October 2022.

The procurement would be to appoint a suitably experienced and qualified provider to supply EUC Equipment. The contract would be for a 4-year term with 2 x 12 month extensions. That would include products such as Desktops, Workstations, Laptops, Tablets and Monitors.

The procurement process would be conducted in line with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 via an open tender process. An open tender had been chosen to ensure the Council could appoint a provider who could meet all of its requirements.

Following presentation of Document “C” Members reported that two years previously one of the Trade Unions had reported that the Council had procured two hundred tablets which were not fit for purpose. The Director explained that this was before he was in post but understood that those devices were to be utilised by Social Workers but were not compatible with the systems required. Members questioned if they could be utilised by others or given to support children in the district.

In response it was reported that an exercise was being conducted to retrieve those devices which is was believed were in storage. Following comments that the service should know where those tablets were located and suggestions that they could reduce the cost of the procurement process under discussion, it was reported that those devices would not be appropriate for that contract. It was agreed to investigate that issue further and report back to Members on that subject.

A Member questioned what would happen with the devices when located and it was reported that they were not in Britannia House and had been delivered to Children's Services when purchased. It was agreed that spare equipment should not be located with a service and unused. Discussions were being held with Children's Services and Members would be informed of progress.

It was questioned if the costs in the contract would be fixed or liable to rise once

the agreement had been made. It was explained that the contract would include a price for devices but if there were significant market changes prices could rise. Prices would be checked across the market and if they were not consistent with the provider the contract would not be progressed. The contract was not merely cost based and price was 65% of the evaluation. How quickly the contractor could provide equipment was also a consideration as there were equipment component supply issues.

Members asked if the agreement reached would allow for the Council to look elsewhere if significant cost increases incurred. In response it was explained that by having the agreement in place the supplier was aware of the purchase volume and the Council would receive a more favourable discount as a result. It would not be in the contractor's best interests not to deliver. They would be dealing with a whole host of providers and not restricted to £2 million.

It was questioned if Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation could deliver the contract and it was agreed that they would enter the tender exercise if that were possible. There were stock and price issues which may prevent them competing.

The management costs associated with the contract were queried and it was explained that these would depend on the contract award. Some suppliers would charge a base cost for a device and include a percentage management cost in each appliance.

The potential to make efficiency savings by buying direct from manufacturers was questioned and it was explained that the Council was not allowed to purchase from Dell or Microsoft and must use a vendor. The Council did have a relationship with suppliers but could not purchase directly.

It was noted that the tender submissions evaluation would be weighted as 65% Price, 25% Quality and 10% Social Value. The expectations from social value were questioned and it was explained that this could be various measures including the provision of apprenticeships or by providing equipment to schools or charity.

It was queried what would happen to equipment at the end of the contract and explained that it would have no use by the authority at the end of its life, however, the devices could either go to partner agencies; schools or charities and would have some re-usable value. When equipment was donated the Council no longer had accountability and the equipment would cease to be its responsibility.

In response to questions about the removal of data from devices that were donated it was explained that some charities would undertake to do that and provide evidence or the Council may choose to wipe all data itself. The Council were looking to provide software to ensure data could be removed remotely.

The volume of devices in the contract was questioned and it was reported that it was anticipated the volume would be 1500/1600 per annum. Funding had been secured for four years and the strategy would then be revised.

It was confirmed that the contract was for the provision of products such as Desktops, Workstations, Laptops, Tablets and Monitors and did not include

software systems.

Members looked forward to further information about the 200 laptops referred to in discussions.

Resolved –

This Committee requests that the comments and suggestions raised by members be considered during the Procurement Exercise.

(Dominic Barnes-Browne – 07812 486694)

9. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee submitted a report (**Document “D”**) which included proposed items for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee DRAFT work programme for 2022/23. The Committee was asked to consider which items it wished to include in the work programme.

It was acknowledged that the Councillor Call for Action would be added to the work programme as an informal item.

A Member referred to a request for a report made nine months previously which had not been scheduled for discussion. Members at the meeting on 14 October 2021 had requested that a report be presented in February 2022, in relation to the Stonewall Quality Standard and the process and costs associated with that standard.

The Overview and Scrutiny Lead explained that the issue would be included in a report on the delivery of outcomes against the equality action plan scheduled to be discussed on 13 October 2022.

A Member stressed that the Committee had voted unanimously, in October 2021, that a report on the specific issue of the Stonewall Quality Standard, be presented in February 2022. It was felt that it was not for officers to decide to ignore those requests and unacceptable that it was over nine months since that request had been made.

It was noted that all three resolutions from that issue had not been actioned.

Resolved –

Members amended and approved the 2022-23 Work Programme.

(Mustansir Butt – 07582 101597)

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members were asked to note the schedule of meetings for the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2022-23. The meetings would be held at 1700 hours on the following dates:

21 July 2022
15 September 2022
13 October 2022
10 November 2022
8 December 2022
12 January 2023
9 February 2023
9 March 2023
6 April 2023

Resolved –

The Committee agreed the dates of future meetings.

(Mustansir Butt – 07582 101597)

Chair

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

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER