
PEDESTRIAN HEART TASK AND FINISH REVIEW – FINAL REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To report the findings and recommendations of a Task and Finish Review Group established by this Scrutiny Committee to look into the Pedestrian Heart Project to date, and to give an insight to a review of future capital project management and to make recommendations to Cabinet thereon.

Background Information

2. Members will recall that, at the meeting of Council held on 28th September, 2006, when considering a report of the Director of Development and Environment, seeking approval for further funding for the Pedestrian Heart Scheme, including a contingency provision to cover future risks, it was agreed that :-
 - (a) £586,000 be approved and released to fund the anticipated increase in the final out-turn cost of the Pedestrian Heart project;
 - (b) £750,000 be approved and released as a contingency against future risks of the Pedestrian Heart project; and
 - (c) the Resources Scrutiny Committee be asked to review the project to date, and to give oversight to a review of future capital project management.
3. The issue was considered at a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 19th October, 2006, and, at that meeting, it was agreed that a Task and Finish Review Group be established to investigate the issues as directed by Council.
4. Since then, the Task and Finish Review Group has met on two occasions and a draft report on the findings and recommendations has been prepared and is attached (**Appendix 1**).

Legal Implications

5. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

6. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in

its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Recommendations

7. The recommendations of the Review Group are detailed below and this Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider the recommendations and forward to Cabinet as appropriate :-
 - (a) all the recommendations in the Clarus report continue to be actioned and be monitored by appropriate Directors with progress reported to the Resources Scrutiny Committee;
 - (b) a robust review of the tendering process, including all aspects of Member involvement be undertaken and aligned to the procurement project;
 - (c) each contract award over the contracts procedure rules threshold must be based upon a clear and robust procurement/contract strategy;
 - (d) all contracts referred to in (c) above, must be in place and be approved by Legal Services before payments are made under the contract;
 - (e) that the Resources Scrutiny Committee fully endorse the establishment of a project to review the capital project management role and that it be involved in developing the system and overseeing its implementation; and
 - (f) that the Council continues to review the Pedestrian Heart scheme to ensure that all payments made are appropriate.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report other than those referred to in this report.

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