
PEDESTRIAN HEART TASK AND FINISH REVIEW

Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor John Williams, Leader

Responsible Director – Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

1. To report the Resources Scrutiny Committee's findings and recommendations in relation to the Pedestrian Heart project to date and a review of future capital project management.

Information and Analysis

2. As Members will be aware, following a request by Council, the Resources Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 19th October, 2006, established a Task and Finish Review Group to look into the Pedestrian Heart Project to date, and to give an insight to a review of future capital project management.
3. Since that date, the Task and Finish Review Group has met and the Group presented its Final Report (**Appendix 1**) to a meeting of the Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 15th December, 2006.
4. At that meeting on the 15th December, 2006, the Resources Scrutiny Committee agreed to accept and endorse the Task and Finish Review Groups recommendations and agreed to forward the following to Cabinet for consideration :-
 - (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.

Director of Development and Environment's Comments

5. The recommendations made by the Resources Scrutiny Committee are fully supported. Actions have already been taken to improve procedures and a review has commenced on capital project management which will be overseen by the Resources Scrutiny Committee.

Outcome of Consultation

6. In undertaking this Review, Officers of Darlington Borough Council and Consultants were involved.

Legal Implications

7. 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

8. 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.

Council Policy Framework

9. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Decision Deadline

10. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Recommendation

11. It is recommended that the recommendations of the Resources Scrutiny Committee be agreed.

Reasons

12. The recommendation is supported to ensure that the Council undertakes capital projects effectively and with best practice.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

No Background Papers were used in the preparation of this report other than those referred to.

Shirley Burton : Extension 2233
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