

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

09 July 2019



<b>Title</b>	Corporate Project Management Report		
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To note		
<b>Report Author</b>	Sandy Muirhead Group Head Commissioning and Transformation		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor John Boughtflower	<b>Confidential</b>	No
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	Financial Sustainability		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>To note the report</b>		
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	<b>To allow Members to be updated on progress of projects and their outcomes across the Council</b>		

## 1. Key issues

- 1.1 This report highlights the work of the Council on projects.
- 1.2 The Corporate Project Dashboard attached (Appendix 1) tracks progress of projects and work streams to fall in line with the Groups in place since May 2016 (Commissioning and Transformation / Community Well Being / Neighbourhood Services / Regeneration and Growth / Customer Relations / Finance), with the inclusion of those projects falling under a Corporate and/or 'miscellaneous' heading.
- 1.3 The council's focus continues on property acquisitions and housing projects, with the property acquisition portfolio being managed, controlled and reported through the 'Development and Investment Group' and the 'Investment and Property Group' – with the property project names, and high-level information being captured as part of the "Corporate Project Register" and "Corporate Project Dashboard" documents. A presentation of the risks associated with the 'Confidential' development projects shall be made in a 'Part 2' (Confidential) section of the meeting. Should this continue to be an acceptable, and workable, format which suits the O&S Committee Members, then it shall be adopted for future meetings. Should there be any revisions/improvements which may prove necessary, then Officers shall see to introduce those improvements for the next session.

Moving forward the Group and Deputy Group Head Commissioning and Transformation (CTG) will continue to meet with all Group Heads to obtain their views on current and future needs in relation to projects. Project managers also need to ensure they seek appropriate authorisations before progressing projects to ensure there is a business case and resources are in

Thursday, 04 July 2019

Page 1 of 4.

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place to support the project. CTG will focus on performance to ensure that all aspects of project work are captured to enable the Council to clearly demonstrate its achievements.

- 1.4 Projects need to ensure they continue to take account of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Equality and Diversity impacts and where appropriate Privacy Impact Assessments, so as to comply with the necessary Governmental legislations.

It has been noted that the GDPR considerations are now being discussed at more project meetings.

- 1.5 The Project Steering Group continue to meet and discuss individual projects in greater detail, particularly those with a red or amber status. Highlight reports continue to be produced on a regular basis by the majority of managers. Updates are provided to Management Team on a weekly basis.

## **2. Corporate Projects**

- 2.1 The projects being delivered across the Council continue to move Spelthorne forward on various areas to support delivery of the corporate priorities.
- 2.2 The project documentation has been modified to ensure projects at the initiation stage have a clear business case and highlight Procurement, Legal, ICT Finance, Communications and GDPR requirements that need supporting during the course of the project. This will assist with workload planning where projects cross several different services.

## **3. Financial implications**

- 3.1 Projects should not be initiated unless there is a clear business case and funding stream/resources are in place. These should be indicated at the project planning stage and it is expected there will be continuing support given for the initial business case documentation to be completed thus allowing projects to be effectively reported on and monitored.
- 3.2 The Project Management documentation will also include the Procurement Business Case document as produced by Procurement with the project manager where appropriate.

## **4. Resource implications**

- 4.1 As with the financial needs, resources must be given equal attention, with the appropriate departments and services being considered so that the appropriate and necessary skills can be made available so as to meet delivery deadlines.
- 4.2 Given the current structure, and working practices, of the Authority, prioritisation of workloads will prove crucial so as to engage key members of the delivery Team at the times conducive to meeting deadlines and fulfilling expectations.
- 4.3 Where resource availability is proving to be a risk with potential to threaten the agreed delivery date, then escalation for support must be considered.

## **5. Other considerations**

- 5.1 Projects will need to address GDPR, equality and diversity issues together with those of sustainability, financial, social and environmental.
- 5.2 The introduction, and regular sitting, of the Project Steering Group (PSG) shall seek to further support each project by way of adherence to the current SBC project principles, recommended practices and processes. All of these shall serve to ensure that projects are managed in a manner conducive with focus to effective, efficient and controlled delivery. Risks and issues shall continue to alert the PSG of where additional consideration and support shall become necessary to review and address project priorities with those of corporate direction and needs.
- 5.3 In a bid to promote speedier submission of project documentation a new streamlined document Project Brief and Business case has been developed and circulated for use. This wraps into one document the 'Project Summary', 'Project Initiation' and 'Business Case' requirements, to make it simpler for project managers.

Initial feedback on use of the document has proved to be very positive.

## **6. Timetable for implementation**

- 6.1 Project governance shall now also seek the consideration and direction of the PSG and continue to be reported to MAT, Cabinet Briefing and Overview and Scrutiny every quarter.
- 6.2 The corporate project team will continue to meet and discuss individual projects in more detail particularly those with a red or amber status. Highlight reports underpin the project report hierarchy and will continue to be produced monthly by project managers.
- 6.3 It is envisaged that as the Groups provide greater support for this corporate requirement that the content and timing of the data input shall become more efficient thereby ensuring that the overall process, and its own requirements shall provide enhanced benefits.

This will include the maintenance of an accurate 'Corporate Project Register', which provides an up-to-date record of all project activity within the Authority. This shall enable opportunities for the necessary support to be provided to the project teams by way of a corporate assessment of budget, resource and man-power needs/availability and the appropriate prioritisation/reprioritisation on an ongoing basis. It is therefore imperative that the Group Heads impart their knowledge of project activity in their respective areas, in a timely manner, to those maintaining the corporate documentation.

- 6.4 It is appreciated that the current sourcing mechanisms (Highlight Reports) for obtaining Dashboard information from the Groups Heads/Project Managers has historically been 'cumbersome' but a more streamlined version is now utilised to provide the necessary project information.
- 6.5 The revised design of the Corporate Project Dashboard is still being worked on to continue to improve the presentation of the project status information in a truly focussed format. This issue continues to be addressed by the Project Team.

6.6 The Group Head of Commissioning and Transformation has initiated a number of work streams which aim to manage the end-to-end delivery of any project by introducing more effective and efficient methodologies. These include:-

- Project Governance
  - Project Steering Group responsibilities
  - Stage gates
  - Project Documentation - requirement
- Project Manager Training – In-house
- Project Reporting – automation
- Communication of projects / portfolio of projects

**Background papers:**

**Appendices:**

**Appendix 1: Corporate Project Dashboard**

**Appendix 2: Corporate Project Dashboard – Project Detail**

**Appendix 3: Corporate Project Register**