

By: Eric Hotson, Chairman of the Member Working Group - Commissioning
Gary Cooke, Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services

To: Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee – 19 September 2014

Subject: Update from the Member Working Group - Commissioning

Summary: This report updates the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee on the work of the Member Working Group Commissioning.

Recommendation(s)

The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee is asked to note the report.

1. Introduction

Members will be aware that at the briefing in the afternoon of the last County Council meeting on 17 July 2014 it was announced that Eric Hotson had been invited by the Leader to chair a Working Group on Commissioning.

2. Member Working Group – Commissioning

(1) Membership of the Working Group is :

Mrs A D Allen, MBE
Mr M J Angell
Mr H Birkby
Mr A H T Bowles
Mr N J D Chard
Mr G Cowan
Mrs T Dean, MBE

Mr E E C Hotson
Mr R A Latchford, OBE
Mr C R Pearman
Mr C Simkins
Mr R Truelove
Mr M E Whybrow

(2) At the inaugural meeting of the Member Working Group on 29 July 2014, Eric Hotson was elected Chairman and Andrew Bowles, Vice-Chairman of the Working Group.

(3) The Working Group endorsed the terms of reference as presented to the County Council on 17 July which are sufficiently broad to respond to the emerging transformation and the role of the elected Member. To remind the Cabinet Committee the terms of reference are as follows:

(a) To consider and make recommendations as to:

- (i) The role of the Members at each stage of the commissioning cycle;
- (ii) How the Member role in commissioning can be discharged including changes to the way Cabinet Committees and other council committees might change to support the member role in commissioning; and

- (iii) The skills needed by Members to support their role in each stage of the commissioning cycle and any other subsequent training priorities for Members.
 - (b) Link to the Market Engagement Reviews and ensure proposals coming forward clearly prioritise and embed the member role in commissioned services; and
 - (c) Oversee the overall effectiveness of the member role in commissioning, and the process established to discharge that role, and make recommendations to the Leader as may be required
- (4) The terms of reference are sufficiently broad and flexible, so that if necessary, they can be amended to reflect the discussions and evolution of the Member Working Group.
- (5) The Working Group is currently preparing its initial views and recommendations for reporting to the Selection and Member Services Committee and the Leader of the Council.
- (6) The Member Working Group will have met on four occasions before the meeting of this Cabinet Committee and has discussed thoroughly with Officers the role of the Members in the Commissioning cycle both in the short and long term. The recommendations for its first report will be around member involvement on the commissioning cycle in the short term.
- (7) The Member Working Group have also started to discuss the governance arrangements for members and officers operating in a 'Strategic Commissioning Authority' including how the existing structure can be improved/enhanced whilst keeping all elected Members appropriately involved.

3. Impact on the Member Role

- (1) The 'member role' is uppermost in the focus of the Working Group. The Committee is reminded that all Members were invited to attend one of four briefings delivered on 4 and 5 September by Professor Tony Bovaird. Professor of Public Management Policy, INLOGOV, University of Birmingham. Over fifty Members participated in these briefings.
- (2) Working with the Member Development Steering Group a programme of events and activity will be developed and offered to Members to enable them to develop or acquire the skills required for an elected Member operating within a Strategic Commissioning Authority.

4. Conclusion

- (1) The Working Group will keep Members informed of its progress and will be reporting to the Selection and Member Services Committee. The KNet Members Area contains a link to the papers and information considered by

the Working Group which will be one way in which all Members will be kept informed of the work of the Group.

5. Recommendation(s)

(1) The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee is asked to note the report.

Report Author

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