

Cabinet – 29 April 2021

Reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 20 April 2021

157. Shared Services Scrutiny Review Report

Members received a report which presented the findings and recommendations from the Shared Services Scrutiny Review. The review had commenced in late 2019 but had to conclude early in March 2020, as the Covid-19 pandemic diverted resources and continued to stretch organisational capacity.

A member of the Committee presented the report and highlighted the following:

- the review had been carried out in the midst of the pandemic which had been challenging and whilst not all objectives had been met, the report highlighted some positives;
- feasibility study appraisals should support Council decisions on future shared services, with risks being able to be identified and mitigated;
- it was crucial that contracts and agreements in shared services had exit strategies included.

The Committee raised a number of points including that the opportunity to revisit this issue in the future would be welcomed.

The Chair and Committee thanked the officers and review panel for their work and agreed that this should be included on the Scrutiny Work Programme

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Shared Services Scrutiny Review be endorsed;
- (2) the review's report and recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration and response;
- (3) in line with Rule 25.1.1 of the Council's Committee Procedure Rules, Rule 40.2 be suspended, to allow the Executive a longer timeframe within which to respond to the Review, in recognition of current stretch in organisational capacity and that the response be provided by September 2021.

For Consideration

Background Documents:

Agenda of Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 20 April 2021: Report on Shared Services Scrutiny Review Report
Draft Minutes of Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 20 April 2021

Contact Officer:

Andrew Seaman, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 01135 188523

andrew.seaman@harrow.gov.uk