

**CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE – INFORMATION REPORT**

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**Background**

1. Following most Committee meetings the Chair writes a letter to the relevant Cabinet Member or officer, summing up the Committee's comments and recommendations regarding the issues considered during that meeting. At the Committee meeting on 8 July 2015 Members received a report detailing the Committee-related correspondence sent by, and received by, the Committee relating to committee meetings held on 4 March 2015, 1 April 2015, 13 May 2015 and 3 June 2015. This report provides an update since then.
  
2. Members will find copies of the following letters attached in full in **Appendix A**:
  - i. Letter from Councillor Groves, Chair, to Councillor Hinchey, regarding the corporate performance reports considered at Committee on 13 May 2015 – *response received and attached*.
  - ii. Letter from Councillor McGarry, Chair, to Councillor Elsmore, regarding Health and Social Care Savings, RCF and ICF programmes and Welfare Reforms, considered at Committee on 8 July 2015 – *response received and attached*.
  - iii. Letter from Councillor McGarry, Chair, to Councillor De'Ath, regarding Tackling Human Trafficking and the Change & Improvement Directorate Delivery Plan considered at Committee on 8 July 2015 – *response received and attached*.
  - iv. Letter from Councillor McGarry, Chair, to Christine Salter, regarding evaluation process for proposed savings, considered at Committee on 8 July 2015 – *awaiting response*.

- v. Letter from Councillor McGarry, Chair, to Councillor Richard Cook, regarding Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee work programme, discussed at Committee on 8 July 2015 – *response received and attached*.
- vi. Letter from Councillor Richard Cook, Chair Joint Committee of Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee and Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, to Councillors Elsmore and Lent, following scrutiny of the draft Director of Social Services Annual Report, considered at Committee on 29 July 2015 – *holding response received and attached*.

### **Way Forward**

- 3. During their meeting, Members may wish to reflect on the letters sent and received by the Chair. In particular, they may wish to consider how far the recipients have responded to the Committee's letters.

### **Legal Implications**

- 4. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

## **Financial Implications**

5. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to note the content of the letters contained in the appendices.

**Marie Rosenthal**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**10 September 2015**