

To: City Executive Board

Date: 29 January 2015

Report of: Scrutiny Finance Panel

Title of Report: Capital Programme Management

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To present recommendations from the Scrutiny Finance Panel on the capital programme management.

Key decision? No

Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Craig Simmons, Chair of the Finance Panel

Executive lead member: Councillor Ed Turner, Executive Member for Finance, Asset Management and Public Health.

Policy Framework: Corporate Plan 2014-2018

Recommendations: That the City Executive Board

1. Agrees to sustainability being formalised throughout the capital gateway process.
2. Continues to develop a more flexible approach to the delivery of its capital programme.

Introduction

1. The Finance Panel considered a report on capital programme management, which set out a number of new arrangements and initiatives to deliver improvements and compliance with best practice. The Panel would like to thank David Edwards, Stephen Clarke and Nigel Kennedy for supporting this discussion.

Summary of the discussion

2. The Finance Panel noted that the City Council has a very ambitious and varied programme of capital projects, and the need to get very good at delivering these.

3. The Panel welcomed the transformational progress in improving the management of the capital programme and reducing slippage. The Panel also recognised that there is likely to be some upward pressure towards the end of the financial year.
4. The Committee noted that the City Council's Service Manager for Environmental Sustainability has an overview of the capital programme and suggested that sustainability should be formalised throughout the capital gateway process, similar to the Green Overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work.

Recommendation 1 – That sustainability is formalised throughout the capital gateway process.

5. The Panel heard that a more flexible approach is now being taken that allows the movement of money between budget heads. The Panel welcomed this progress and would like to see this flexibility being developed further, including through more flexible contracts, so that resources can be shared more efficiently.

Recommendation 2 – That the City Executive Board continues to develop a more flexible approach to the delivery of its capital programme.

Further consideration

6. The Finance Panel will continue to monitor capital programme performance in quarterly performance and financial reports.

Director and Board Member Comments

Name and contact details of author:-

Andrew Brown on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee
Scrutiny Officer
Law and Governance
Tel: 01865 252230 e-mail: abrown2@oxford.gov.uk

List of background papers: None