**Scrutiny recommendation tracker 2017/18 – January 2017**

Total recommendations (year to date): 44

Agreed 39 89%

Agreed in part 4 9%

Not agreed 1 2%

**23 JANUARY 2018 CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Preventing elderly isolation – Executive Board Member for Culture and Communities**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Recommendation*** | ***Agree*** | ***Comment*** |
| 1: That consideration is given to how the Council could obtain a clearer view of how to identify and engage with older people who are isolated or at risk of isolation. The former should include the use of population data for different parts of the city to identify any geographical concentrations of older people and gaps in provision. | *TBC* | *To follow* |
| 2: That consideration is given to developing the role of local intelligence and local assets such as community centres, community newsletters, parish councils and food banks in identifying and supporting older people facing isolation. One option is to expand the reach of the national Older People’s Day, which is promoted locally by the Oxford 50+ Network, and seek to involve a wider range of stakeholders in it. | *TBC* | *To follow* |
| 3: That the Council explores joint working opportunities with the County Council and CCG on preventing elderly isolation and continues to make the case for dedicated resource and the wider use of social prescribing | *TBC* | *To follow* |
| 4: That the Council should encourage and prioritise targeted outreach work to BAME communities that can help to mitigate language and cultural barriers, including amongst older people who may be at risk of isolation. | *TBC* | *To follow* |
| 5: That the Council seeks to ensure that ‘fair share’ of OCCG funding is directed towards projects and services in the city, including where such resources could be focused on preventing elderly isolation. | *TBC* | *To follow* |

**18 DECEMBER TRADING COMPANIES SHAREHOLDER MEETING**

**ODSL and ODSTL Business Plan – Leader of the Council**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Recommendation*** | ***Agree*** | ***Comment*** |
| 1. That the Oxford Direct Services companies should be encouraged to promote their corporate values (which should reflect those of the Council). The companies should also mention that they are social enterprises (if applicable). | Yes | ODS management are working on a mission and values statement in partnership with the staff and the trade unions. These will be discussed with the Board and with Scrutiny and will form the touchstone of how ODS  operates |
| 2. The Council agrees some social value metrics with the Oxford Direct Services Companies and includes these within a balanced scorecard that is regularly monitored by the Council. These could include measures around local employment opportunities, for example. | Yes | The balanced scorecard will be informed by our mission and values so that everything points back to these. The table on page 50 of the Business Plan is a work in progress to allow for the mission and values to be reflected in the metrics |
| 3. That the presentation of net margins as well as gross margins would be helpful in future reports to the Shareholder. | Yes | The plan will be amended accordingly |
| 4. That a summary of other authorities’ LATCos, the services they provide and their success or failure would provide a useful picture of the landscape and help to inform whether other Council services should be transferred to the companies in future. | Yes | This will depend on whether the data can be obtained. ODS management will contact Grant Thornton who work with a number of LATCos and understand the details of the landscape |
| 5. That as the companies develop they should do so in a way that does not prejudice the future of smaller local companies or stifle the local economy, and in fact serves to do the opposite. | Yes | Our strategy is geared towards larger works so we are likely to be operating in a different market to smaller local companies. |
| 6. That it would be helpful for a more detailed turnover analysis to be undertaken within each of the four key sectors in order to identify risks, such as those parts of the business that are reliant on a small number of customers. | Yes | As part of the evolution of the commercial arm of the company we will be undertaking more market analysis to further inform our understanding of the profitability and potential of our various service lines |
| 7. That consideration should be given in future to the distribution of a proportion of company profits to community projects or organisations as a tax efficient means of returning value to the city and the Council. | Yes | This is another opportunity to return increased value to the Council and the community and we will review the scope for doing this during 18/19 |
| 8. That measures of additional financial returns to the Council should distinguish between value created through efficiency savings and new revenues. | Yes | The efficiency savings are in Building Services. The other 3 main service lines (motor transport, highways & engineering and commercial waste) are all about growth. The additional £500k per annum by 21/22 is expressed as 'value' because it is a combination of profit and efficiency. Estimates of efficiency and growth are included under each service line but these cannot be predicted precisely.  The focus will be on achieving £500k per annum as a minimum through a combination of efforts. |

**21 NOVEMBER 2017 CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Review of Community Grants and Commissioned Advice Services - Executive Board Members for Culture & Communities and Customer & Corporate Services**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Recommendation*** | ***Agree*** | ***Comment*** |
| 1. That the Council identifies a suitable means of building capacity within BAME communities that are underrepresented among open bidding and small grants recipients, perhaps by linking this objective to the priorities for community and voluntary sector infrastructure support going forwards. | Y | Within the papers inviting bids for the CVO infrastructure support a specific question has been included asking applicants to explain how they will support the BAME communities in building capacity. |
| 2. That a greater emphasis is placed on disseminating information about the grant application processes, together with advice about how to make a good application. This information should be generally available but also targeted at underrepresented groups and communities. | Y | As well as promoting the grant programme through our website and social media channels we will distribute leaflets through community centres and display through our noticeboards. Guidance notes include information on how to complete the application form and suggestions on what to consider to ensure they answer the questions fully, 4 workshops will be held when the open bidding grants programme is open for applications, 2 on bid writing and 2 on what makes a successful application. One of these will be held in East Oxford. |
| 3. That the Council ensures that there is a continuing dialogue with advice centres about the proposals, including specifically the proposal to make a 5% reduction to the direct funding that goes to each organisation and to pool that money with an additional £20k that advice centres can bid for to fund development work. | Y | The Revenues & Benefits Programme Manager met with the advice centres on 8th November to discuss the revised specification and the proposed new funding approach. It was a productive meeting, and all parties reaffirmed their commitment to act on the recommendations of the Advice UK report (this commitment had been made at a previous meeting on August 3rd). The advice centres made a request to defer the 5% reallocation of core funding to a new match funded development pot until April 2019, the second year of the new contract. Officers will hold a further meeting with the agencies in the new year following a decision by CEB. |
| 4. That consideration is given to whether there is a role for the Council in providing ‘social grants’ funding directly to social enterprise organisations. | Y | Through the open bidding grant programmes one of the things that we list as not wanting to fund are organisations making a commercial gain; however we do fund community interest companies and other none profit making organisations as long as they can evidence there is more than one person running the organisation and they are not related. Through the Homelessness commissioning grant programme we fund The Big Issue and support Aspire who run social enterprises supporting homeless people change their lives. |
| 5. That further consideration is given to whether the proposed £200k income ceiling is the most appropriate means of limiting the size of groups that can apply for small grants. | Y | We will look into this. |