

Appendix A

Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 16 January 2024 concerning the Leisure Services Contract Award report. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council publishes, in the public domain, a more detailed breakdown of the higher costs in relation to the in-house proposal, particularly in respect of expenditure and staffing.	Yes	The total staffing cost for the in-house bid over 10 years is £35,710 million.
2) That the Council reports back to the Scrutiny Committee as soon as possible with an update on the arrangements established for the effective commissioning, delivery and management of the leisure services contract – including the arrangements established to ensure a smooth transition to the new provider.	Yes	Subject to Cabinet approval, we will engage with Serco to effect its detailed mobilisation plan to ensure smooth transition from Fusion. Council is also preparing detailed arrangements for effectively managing and clienting the effective delivery of the contract, including regular monitoring and reporting to appropriate Programme Board, CMT and lead members.
3) That the Council takes account of lessons learned through the leisure services contract procurement process and takes measures to ensure that future procurement exercises for large-scale tenders are started sufficiently in advance so as to allow for adequate, meaningful and timely Member involvement and to allow the Council time to pause and reassess its options if required – including the option to abandon the process and re-tender.	Yes	We will review the procurement exercise with a view to accommodating these recommendations in the future. It must be noted that complex procurements such as the leisure tender often take well over a year, and trying to design in the option to abandon from the start would lead to a longer process and risk value for money.
4) That the Council makes representations to Central Government expressing the need for greater transparency in local authority procurement processes for Members, to better enable them to act in the best interests of the communities and residents that they represent.	No	The Local Government Association (LGA) guidance provides that members should not be involved in the evaluation of bids. A combination of rules and laws means that members do not have an automatic right to information (see for example the Council's access to information rules which broadly set out what Members

		are entitled to see). Confidentiality is a key concern for bidders and contracting authorities in a procurement context. As members do not evaluate bids there is no basis for disclosure of the tenders to them.
5) That the Council publishes indicative evaluation matrices for future procurement exercises on the Council website, setting out what the Council is looking for from prospective bids.	Yes	
6) That the Council publishes the principles of social value weightings in procurement exercises on the Council website.	n/a	The Council already publishes the principles of social value weightings in procurement exercises on the Council website – see here .
7) That the Cabinet requests that Serco Leisure Ltd, if awarded the leisure services contract, attends a Q&A meeting with Members to explicitly respond to the concerns raised by the Scrutiny Committee; and follows this up in writing to be circulated to all Members for information.	Yes	Subject to the Cabinet decision, we will make these requests to Serco and work with officers to arrange a Q&A session with Scrutiny Committee.
8) That the Cabinet provides a written response to the public address delivered at the Scrutiny Committee meeting in relation to the report, which can be shared with the public speaker and the Scrutiny Committee.	Yes	