

Mayor & Cabinet			
Title	Responses to the recommendations from the Public Accounts Select Committee – Income Generation		
Key Decision	No	Item No	
Contributors	Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration		
Class	Part 1	Date	10 January 2018

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides the response to Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Public Accounts Select Committee, arising from discussions held on the Council's approach to income generation at the its meeting on 27 September 2017.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to approve the responses to the recommendations of the Public Accounts Select Committee as set out in Section 3 of this report and report these to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

3. Responses

- 3.1 At its meeting on 27 September 2017, the Public Accounts Select Committee held further discussions with officers on the approach being taken to increase income generation in the authority.

Recommendation 1

- 3.2 **The Committee recommends that Mayor and Cabinet tasks officers with meeting representatives of the Association for Public Service Excellence to consider how best the Council can generate income through the use of its existing assets and resources.**

Response

- 3.3 The Head of Financial Services and the Head of Corporate Resources met with a Principal Advisor from the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) at the beginning of November 2017. The APSE is a membership body for local authorities and also a few Housing Association and Leisure Trusts. It represents approximately 250 local authorities across the UK and supports member authorities to share good practise and collaborate in finding innovative approaches to meeting the demands of local government public service delivery. The Council is in the process of joining the APSE.

Recommendation 2

- 3.4 **The Committee recommends that Mayor and Cabinet seeks justification from officers about the decision to advertise the new senior procurement role internally rather than externally.**

Response

- 3.5 Officers felt that there were a number of good internal candidates who could perform the role of Strategic Procurement and Commercial Manager. Given that the need to re-establish the council's corporate procurement function would be the immediate priority, it was felt that this opportunity should be afforded to one of these internal candidates in the first instance given their knowledge and experience of the council's existing practices around procurement and contract management. Interviews for this 18 month post were held at the beginning of December 2017. An internal senior manager with both extensive public and commercial private sector experience has been appointed to the post. The process for transitioning this officer into this new role has started.

Recommendation 3

- 3.6 **The Committee also recommends that the appointment of consultants to support the creation of the new procurement and commercialisation team be delayed until options for income generation have been explored with the Association for Public Service Excellence.**

Response

- 3.7 Officers are in full agreement with the recommendation of the Committee. Once they have taken up their new position, the Strategic Procurement and Commercial Manager will be tasked with assessing the needs or otherwise of buying in external consultancy support to assist the Council in building its strategic procurement and commercial strategy. Officers will continue to update Members of the Public Accounts Select Committee accordingly.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications which arise from agreeing this report. However, Members should note that cost of subscribing to the Association of Public Service Excellence will be £5k per annum.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director and report back to the Committee within two months, not including recess.

6. Equalities Implications

6.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report.

7. Crime and Disorder Implications

7.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

8. Environmental Implications

8.1 There are no specific environmental implications directly arising from this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Selwyn Thompson, Head of Financial Services on 020 8314 6932