

Recommendation

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider the following referral made by the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel on 19 February 2019.

Review of the Council's Procurement Procedures

Business Panel

- i. Notes that the scoring system and the balance between quality and price is not robust nor transparent when awarding contract to organisations;
- ii. Calls for the Council to re-examine its process of quality versus cost, and ensure there is a thorough examination of the factors within both price and quality;
- iii. Is not convinced continuity or proximity of provision are given sufficient thought in the transition period as part of the evaluation and that needs to be weighted accordingly;
- iv. In accordance with the Administration's Manifesto commitments to use an in-house provider and secure services locally whenever possible, prominent sections of the process should examine the advantages and disadvantages of in-house and local provision.

Business Panel proposes that:

- The scoring system should be very clear and easy to understand.
- Mayor and Cabinet should take time to consider proposals from officers before making a decision.
- Sufficient time and consideration must be given to responses to scrutiny in recognition of the need for parity of esteem.
- In future: quality, location, continuity and in-house consideration should feature largely when awarding contracts.