

Thurrock Borough Council

Finance Recovery Board

Minutes – Monday 20 February 2023

Attendees

Nicole Wood – Essex County Council Commissioner (Chair)

Cllr Mark Coxshall – Leader, Thurrock Council

Cllr John Kent – Opposition Group Leader, Thurrock Council

Ian Wake – Acting Head of Paid Service, Thurrock Council

Jonathan Wilson – Acting Section 151 Officer, Thurrock Council

Mark Bradbury – Interim Director of Place, Thurrock Council

Debbie Knopp – Director of Transformation, Essex County Council

Patrick McDermott – Chief of Staff to the Commissioners, DLUHC

Luke Tyson – Chief Intervention Officer, Thurrock Council

Gary Staples – Strategic Lead Corporate Programmes, Thurrock Council

Lorraine Surrey – Senior Project Manager, Thurrock Council

Apologies

Gavin Jones – Essex County Council Commissioner

Cllr Graham Snell – Cabinet Member for Finance, Thurrock Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1. Nicole Wood welcomed the Board. All attendees had received papers.

2. Minutes and actions of the last meeting

- 2.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Workstreams Update

- 3.1. Gareth Moss provided an update on the workstreams and updated FRB on the Finance team away-day.
- 3.2. By exception, the Board noted that new advice on investment management means that some delivery dates have slipped, and that further recruitment is required to protect the delivery of I3.
- 3.3. There followed a discussion on the strength based review to be conducted by ECC into the operation of the s114 notice.

4. Capital Programme Governance

- 4.1. Mark Bradbury presented the proposed governance which is based on best practice from other authorities.
- 4.2. In the discussion that followed, it was agreed that there would be a reference made in the ToR to providing ad hoc assurance to government departments as required. There was also a discussion about the need to include how members were to be engaged in the oversight of the capital programme.
- 4.3. Nicole Wood raised the need for the capacity and mobilisation to service the structure and Mark Bradbury noted that data would come from existing reporting and project books.
- 4.4. It was agreed that Nicole Wood would be the Commissioner representative on the structure and that the Chair would review the efficacy of the system in six months.
- 4.5. Nicole Wood raised the importance of links the full capital programme review and the need to update Cabinet in Q1.

Action: Add the following to the TOR for the Capital Programme Board:

- 1. On an ad hoc basis, the Board may be required to provide additional information and assurance to DLUHC, under the oversight of the Commissioners.**
- 2. Commissioner representative will be Nicole Wood.**
- 3. The Chair will review the efficacy of the arrangements on a 6-monthly basis.**

Action: Consider member engagement and involvement in the Capital Programme governance, ahead of FRB, IRB and Cabinet.

Action: Mark Bradbury and Gary Staples to discuss support for the Capital Programme Board and its governance.

Action: Further discussions required to agree the date by which the full review of the Capital Programme will be completed with a view to providing an update to Cabinet in Q1.

Action: Share the Capital Programme Board ToR with DLUHC ahead of a future technical discussion.

5. Property and Assets Update

5.1. Mark Bradbury provided an update on the valuations received from Avison Young. These are in line with team targets and the figures in the 23/34 budget.

5.2. There followed a discussion on the valuation of the Thameside Complex.

5.3. The Board discussed the timing of the next Avison Young report and agreed it would be appropriate to consider the resourcing requirements to bring forward the timeline on those valuations.

5.4. Mark Bradbury also provided a verbal update on rental income and Nicole Wood asked for clarity on the GF rental income figures in the 23/24 budget.

Action: Look at the resourcing implications of providing the next valuation report sooner (than the expected 2-3 months) and report back to FRB.

6. Budget Update

6.1. Gareth Moss provided an update on the budget which will now be considered at Cabinet.

6.2. In the discussion that followed it was noted that a further appendices on capital projects will need to be shared.

Action: Commissioners to consider issuing a note on the implications of not setting a budget.

7. DRA

7.1. The Board noted the DRA report.

8. Decisions Taken

8.1. No decisions to report.

9. Any other business

9.1. There being no other business, the meeting closed.