

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 19 April 2012

1. Attendance

Members:

Cllr Tim Attwood
Alderman David Browne
Cllr Deirdre Hargey (Chair)
Cllr Maire Hendron
Cllr Jim McVeigh
Alderman John Kyle
Alderman Robin Newton

Officers:

Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance
Jonathan Huish, Peer Elected Member

2. Investment Programme

The Director of Finance and Resources reminded the Panel of the key milestone dates which had been agreed for the Investment Programme and distributed draft terms of reference for the Area Working Groups (AWG) outlining the proposed role of the AWGs in relation to the :-

- Identification of potential projects.
- Prioritisation of potential projects.
- Recommendation of projects to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
- Providing support for the delivery of projects at a local level

As the AWGs are not part of the formal governance arrangements of the council, it was envisaged that these would operate on an informal basis, using a workshop approach. It was suggested that the first one or two meetings of each AWG would be facilitated by the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director Property and Projects and that the chair of subsequent meetings would then be decided by each AWG. The initial meetings would include a briefing session on the role of the AWGs and the structure of the Local Investment and City Investment Funds.

The role of the AWGs in engaging with local communities was discussed and Members emphasised the importance of fast tracking a number of initial projects across the city, so that citizens could see physical evidence of the Investment Programme on the ground. In this respect they agreed that the initial meetings of the AWGs should seek to identify a small number of projects for each area which could be progressed at an early stage as well as other projects which could be progressed to the feasibility assessment stage.

It was also recognised that the visible branding of the projects in local areas during the construction/development stage would be extremely important and it was noted that Corporate Communications were progressing proposals for such branding.

The role of the area AWGs and officers in providing support for local groups who many not have the capacity to develop good ideas to valid proposals was discussed. The Chief Executive advised that proposals for realigning internal resources to provide this support would be presented to Members.

To support the development of the AWGs it was agreed that Jonathan Huish should engage with the Party Group Leaders and Party Groups through the initial stages of the workshops.

The Director of Finance and Resources then distributed draft guidance notes for the Local Investment Fund, together with a prioritisation matrix and assessment form which could be used to prioritise local investment schemes by the AWGs.

The Chief Executive reminded the Panel that Strategic Policy and Resources approval would be required for the prioritisation framework and for spend on individual schemes.

Dates of the initial area board meetings were agreed as follows:-

- West Area Board - 12.00pm-2.00pm, 30 April 2012
- East Area Board - 10.00am-12.00pm, 1 May 2012
- North Area Board - 12.00pm-2.00pm, 2 May 2012
- South Area Board - To be confirmed
- Court Area Board - To be confirmed

3. Party Leaders Forum Away Day

Jonathan Huish agreed to contact each of the Party Group Leaders after the meeting to arrange a suitable date for the Away Day.

4. RPA

The Chief Executive provided a brief update on the review of public administration and advised that officers were developing resource proposals to support the impact of the considerable amount of work which will be required to be undertaken in relation to RPA.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel would be on Thursday 10 May 2012 at a time to be confirmed.