

A29. Council of the Future Update

The Committee considered an update report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Service on the Council of the Future (COTF).

Since the last update report, on 9 April 2018, the COTF project board had met 3 times to consider progress on projects, the engagement plan and the project risk register.

The Chief Executive stated that the COTF projects would be reprioritised and recalibrated early in the new year to reflect the priorities of the Council's medium term financial plan and the service business plans which were currently being developed. This was a critical piece of work and it was important that the committee was informed of progress. The committee concurred and ask that a presentation be given to all members on the refreshed project.

In addition, following discussions, the committee asked for an update report to its next meeting on 8 April 2018 and that as part of the consideration of the report, it received 2 presentations, from the project lead officers, on key projects.

The Convener reminded the committee that, in terms of governance, the Executive had oversight of the project but that it was in order for the Audit Committee to satisfy itself that the governance and risk constraints were in place. In regard to the governance of the project Rob Jones confirmed, following a question, that the External Auditors had made recommendations as part of the 2017/18 Audit and that these would be followed up in 2018/19. Members reflected on the observation by Ernst & Young that the project was not progressing sufficiently quickly.

In response the Convener stated that the project board regularly questioned the pace of the projects and questioned officers on barriers to progress. The Change Programme Manager explained, following a question on the number of projects within the COTF banner that reports were submitted to the Executive regularly and that there was 'visibility' for members on the project.

The members discussed the frequency in which updates were submitted to the Audit Committee. A report had been requested for the next meeting. The committee would consider the reporting frequency at that meeting having considered the update report.

Decision

The Audit Committee agreed to note the update on the Council of the Future Change Programme and agreed when they would like to receive a further update.

- (1) The Audit Committee noted the update on the Council of the Future Change Programme.**

- (2) requested a further update report to the next meeting following the reprioritisation and recalibration of the Project and to receive a presentation on projects by Project Leads, and**
- (3) that a briefing be held for all members following the reprioritising/calibration of the Project.**