

A15. Council of the Future Update

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on the Council of the Future project.

The Committee had requested, at its meeting on 21 August 2017 (ref AC8) updates at each meeting on the Council of the future project.

The last update had been provided on 9 April 2018 (ref AC7). Since then the project board had met three times and a progress report had been submitted to the Executive on 12 June 2018 (ref EX28). The risk register would be considered at the next project board meeting.

Following discussion, and in recognition of the number of bodies to which Council of the Future reports are submitted and in regard to the governance arrangements, members discussed the Committee's previous decision to request update reports at each meeting. There was general agreement that 2 update reports a year would be sufficient to allow the committee to exercise its oversight role.

In response to a question the Director of Corporate and Housing confirmed that as staff leave the Council there is a consequential impact on budget through pension costs. However the number of employees who had left due to Voluntary Severance was 30 this year compared to 130 in the previous year. The head count was reducing due to voluntary severance, retrials, end of year contracts.

In response to a question the Director of Development Services confirmed that the Strategic Property Review was part of the Council of the Future programme.

Decision

The Audit Committee:-

- (1) noted the update on the Council of the Future change programme, and**
- (2) agreed to receive twice yearly update reports on Council of the Future governance arrangements; and**
- (3) recommended that a review of the Council of the Future Board arrangements is undertaken as part of the Internal Audit Plan**