

MONITORING REPORTS - PROJECTS

Executive Summary

The Executive receives regular reports on the progress of projects in the interests of financial prudence and to ensure open and transparent corporate governance.

This report provides an update of progress in relation to the Council's project management arrangements, assurance, and processes.

A monitoring report detailing the status of every Council project (as at the end of January 2023), incorporating both capital and revenue projects, is attached at Appendix 1. The monitoring report provides a status update, and an assessment against project risks, issues, schedule, and budget.

There are no specific areas for concern or action by the Executive.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

RESOLVE That

- (i) the report be received; and
- (ii) the detailed project monitoring recorded in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

Reasons for Decision

Reason: To monitor progress on development to the Council's project management approach.

The Executive has the authority to determine the recommendation(s) set out above.

Background Papers: None.

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Monitoring Reports - Projects

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The undertaking of projects is an integral part of Woking Borough Council business delivery, and a significant amount of Council resources are allocated to their successful completion. Project management processes have therefore been developed and maintained to bring consistency to how projects are managed, and to aid the project manager in delivering projects on time, to budget, and to the desired standard.
- 1.2 The process has been structured to be flexible and user friendly so it can meet the specific needs of the Council. It has been designed to add value to officers who are leading on projects and support the development of a common standard and capability. Every WBC project, regardless of size or type, is required to follow the corporate process.
- 1.3 In line with the Woking For All Strategy outcome 'A high performing Council', the developing Medium Term Financial Strategy, and in response to peer reports and learning from best practice, we are developing our project management practices so that we continually improve, use resources wisely, and deliver benefits from our investment into project activity.
- 1.4 The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), reported to the 14th July 2022 meeting of the Executive, highlighted a number of unknowns and assumptions within its financial forecasting that pose a risk to the delivery of its MTFS. The MTFS also highlights the associated prudent and responsible approach it is taking to manage these risks through its Financial Resilience Strategy. The risk that this represents for the delivery of projects has not been reflected on each project assurance line but is instead reported in this introduction to represent a generic issue that may have an impact on the delivery of the portfolio of projects.

2.0 Progress Update

- 2.1 The key activity since the last report to the Executive has been:
 - The Project Support Office has met with every project manager to discuss project progress and assess performance.
 - Project portfolio reports have been produced and presented to CLT as part of the quarterly Corporate Programme Board meetings.
- 2.2 Detailed project status is contained within the project monitoring report at Appendix 1. The key points to note from the monitoring report are:
 - There are 40 projects in delivery and at practical completion, of which:
 - 82.5% (33) projects are green.
 - 7.5% (3) projects are amber.
 - 10% (3) projects are red.
 - There are 9 projects that have been closed in the period. Projects that have been closed during the period are not RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rated as this rating relates to projects in delivery. For projects that have been closed the report highlights with a blue shading where the project has exceeded the end date and/or where actual project costs exceeded planned project costs.

3.0 Financial Exception items

- 3.1 In accordance with Financial Regulations, there are no project(s) being highlighted because actual spend exceeds the approved budget by the greater of £10k or 5%.

4.0 Items of Note

- 4.1 Victoria Place: Please note that the project budget remains green despite the fact that actual spend is showing as over budget - the reason for this is that the Final Account process is yet to be undertaken which will resolve the value of compensation events and bring the project back within agreed budget once concluded.
- 4.2 Victoria Way Central Reservation: Project has not yet started. Value engineering and redesign has been completed by the project team and a consultant, however as part of the process to implement cost controls across the Council, it has been agreed to suspend this project and defer the £300k expenditure allocated to it. Implications relating to the suspension of the project will be reported through to CLT as part of the management of cost controls. The project is red to reflect the suspension.

5.0 Corporate Strategy

- 5.1 The ongoing review and monitoring of all projects initiated within the Council, directly relates to the 'A high performing Council' outcome as listed in the Woking For All Strategy.

6.0 Implications

Finance and Risk

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Equalities and Human Resources

- 6.2 There are no specific Equalities or Human Resource implications arising from this report. Additional project management training is being scoped and assessed and will be considered subject to costs and budget provision.

Legal

- 6.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.0 Engagement and Consultation

- 7.1 None.

REPORT ENDS