

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

18 OCTOBER 2012

SUBJECT:	HIGHWAYS AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AND AWARD – ACTION PLAN
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR PHIL DAVIES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to consider and approve the Action Plan prepared in response to the recommendations made in the Audit Commission's Public Interest Report: Highways and Engineering Services Contract Management and Award dated 8 June 2012 . The PIR is set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Audit Commission on 8 June 2012 published its Public Interest Report: Highways and Engineering Services Contract Management and Award ('PIR'). The PIR contains 21 Audit Commission recommendations that seek to address the issues and concerns raised within the PIR.

2.2 Council, at its meeting on 16 July, considered the Public Interest: Highways and Engineering Services Contract Management and Award (albeit this report did not include two contextual changes made by the District Auditor) and resolved that it:

- (1) acknowledges and accepts the findings and recommendations set out in the Report in the Public Interest: Highways and Engineering Services Contract (in respect of the report that it considered);
- (2) refers the PIR [the report it considered] for further consideration to the Executive and appropriate committees and sub-committees of the Council and to the Council's Improvement Board (or any other relevant body/group considered appropriate by the Executive);
- (3) agrees to the amendment of the terms of reference of the Improvement Board to include consideration of the PIR [the report it considered] as part of the Improvement Plan, and assist the Council (as necessary) address/deal with the findings and recommendations set out in the PIR [the report it considered];
- (4) notes the actions already taken by the Council in relation to the PIR [the report it considered]; and the commitment of the Council to take all necessary steps to improve its corporate governance arrangements.

- 2.3 PIR and the recommendations have been carefully considered and relevant Officers have prepared a detailed Action Plan (set out at Appendix 2 to this report) ('PIR - Action Plan') in response to the 21 recommendations made for consideration and approval by Cabinet.
- 2.4 The PIR - Action Plan was considered by the Council's Improvement Board on 21 September 2012. The Improvement Board endorsed the PIR - Action Plan.
- 2.5 Cabinet is asked to consider and approve the PIR Action Plan as set out at Appendix 2.
- 2.6 The Council is required under the Audit Commission Act 1998 to publish a Notice in a local newspaper in relation to the PIR, Council's resolution of 16 July and the PIR-Action Plan specifically setting out where such documents can be inspected by the public. Subject to the Cabinet approving the PIR – Action Plan, the aforementioned Notice will be published in a local newspaper as soon as practicably possible after the Cabinet meeting.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 The PIR identifies a number of issues and concerns in relation to the Council's corporate governance arrangements. The Council exposes itself to risk and challenge should it fail to address the risks identified fully and promptly.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 No other options were considered.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The draft PIR – Action Plan has been shared with the District Auditor and considered by the Council's Improvement Board.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 6.1 There are no such implications arising.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 7.1 The resource implications arising in relation to implementing the actions detailed within the Action Plan shall be considered as necessary and relevant and necessary resources provided to ensure the effective and timely implementation of the PIR – Action plan.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Council must address the issues raised in the PIR and take all appropriate and necessary action to address/mitigate against the concerns identified.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

No because there is no relevance to equality.

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no such implications arising.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no such implications arising.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 That Cabinet approves the PIR – Action Plan set out at Appendix 2 to this report.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 The Council is required to consider and take action to address the concerns raised in the PIR.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Surjit Tour**
Acting Director of Law, HR and Asset Management
telephone: 0151 691 8569
email: surjittour@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Public Interest Report: Highways and Engineering Services Contract Management and Award dated 8 June 2012

Appendix 2 - Highways and Engineering Services Contract Management and Award – Action Plan

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/a

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	16 July 2012