PRESENT: Cllr Jane Jones (Chair), Cllr Andrew Achilleos (Deputy Chair), Cllr Dorothy Akwaboah, Cllr Toni Bankole, Cllr Princess Bright, Cllr Rocky Gill, Cllr Olawale Martins, Cllr Ingrid Robinson and Cllr Phil Waker

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Cameron Geddes

APOLOGIES: Cllr Paul Robinson

16. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

17. Core Support Services - Post Elevate Delivery Models

Further to minute 2 (4 September 2018), the Chief Operating Officer and the Commercial Lead presented a report to the Committee regarding Core Support Services and the post Elevate delivery models. The presentation summarised the proposed delivery models recommended within the final business case.

The Committee were reminded that the Elevate Contract ended in December 2020 and in consideration of the options available to the Council to deliver the Elevate services post 2020 as well as deliver savings against these services, a series of options appraisals had been developed. Gartner, the recognised IT specialists, were contracted to provide a detailed options appraisal of ICT and separate options appraisals were carried out by the Transformation Programme with colleagues from the client team for Revenues and Benefits, Accounts Payable and Procurement and for Customer Services.

A full business case summarising these options appraisals had been developed which tested the optimum operating model against agreed criteria and which validated the savings to be achieved.

In response to questions from the Committee, the officers advised that:

- A phased handover would begin in 2019 to ensure a smooth transition of services by December 2020;
- Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) would apply to staff who would transfer back into the Council service where the service was coming back;
- The current joint venture was undertaken with Agylisis, and it was noted that such a venture would not be entered into now as neither party (Agilisys or the Council) controlled both parts of the venture;
- The full business case was developed as just transferring the service back to the Council would not change the issues with the current business model, nor would it assist the Council with future service changes such as the introduction of Universal Credit. The aim of the business case was
therefore to transfer and transform the service;

- Self-service options would be increased such as accounts payable (receipt of invoices) and HR services for council employees;
- Assurances were given by the Chief Operating Officer that robust monitoring processes would be put in place following the transfer of services back to the Council.

The Committee noted the report.

18. Social Value In Procurement

The Commercial Lead presented a report to the Committee regarding Social Value in Procurement.

The Committee were advised that the Council had an obligation under the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 to consider how it might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area and how it may act with a view to securing that improvement. The Act came into force on 31 January 2013 and applied to public services contracts and framework agreements relating to services to which the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and as revised under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (“the Regulations”) apply.

Members noted that Social value, as a concept, was about seeking to maximise the additional benefit, i.e. social, economic and environmental, that can be created by procuring or commissioning goods and services, above and beyond the benefit from the goods and services themselves but must be related to the services being procured.

Within the Councils contract rules it was mandated that social value must be considered at pre-procurement and strategy development stage. Some examples of how that has been achieved at the Council were discussed and included:

- Thames Partnership for Learning - national skills academy for construction targets included in the procurement of Jerram Faulks and exceeded as well as local employment targets;
- Adecco UK Ltd – attendance and interaction at recruitment fairs via the Job Shop;
- United Living South – support to curriculum events, and employment opportunities offered to local residents via the Job Shop;
- Neilcott Construction Ltd – national skills academy for construction apprenticeship targets met and worked with the Job Shop with vacancies;
- SLM – 4 apprentices employed since September 2017; and

The Commercial Lead advised that a small working group had been established to look at developing a revised Social Value Policy as well as a working framework as part of reviewing the procurement operating model in the Core project. The review would include looking at the procurement process to see where the Council could provide guidance documents for commissioners as well as prospective service providers to give a clearer articulation of what ‘good’ social value contributions looked like in different categories of
procurement. Furthermore, the new policy would ensure operators were committed to providing promised social value contributions.

The Committee welcomed the report and the progress the Council was making with social value however were concerned that many of the examples given were for large scale/high value procurements. In response to these concerns, the Commercial Lead advised that work was being undertaken to look at how the Council could help local businesses, for example by encouraging and assisting local businesses to jointly bid for local procurements.

The Committee noted the report.

19. Growth Commission Stocktake: Towards Inclusive Growth for Barking and Dagenham

The Director of Inclusive Growth presented a report updating the Committee on the Growth Commission Stocktake.

Facilitated by Mike Emmerich and Metro Dynamics, the Growth Commission Stocktake did three things:

- Provided a review of the Borough’s progress since the 2016 Growth Commission;
- Explored the evidence in relation to Inclusive Growth, and made some suggestions for what an Inclusive Growth framework for Barking and Dagenham might look like; and
- Made a set of recommendations as to where the Council and its partners should focus their efforts in order to plug any gaps in the overall Inclusive Growth Programme.

The Stocktake had found that the council and partners had made huge progress since 2016 across all areas highlighted in the original commission, particularly in relation to issues associated with the physical regeneration of the place, but that much more needed to be done to connect local people into the benefits of the growth. In other words, economic growth had been strong and employment had risen, but a significant inclusion gap remained.

The Stocktake suggested five ‘Grand Challenges’ that the Borough should focus on in order to close this gap:

- ‘Building sustainable communities’, including a renewed focus on the Becontree Estate and Barking Riverside as exemplars of 21st Century sustainable, connected, and vibrant urban developments;
- ‘Creating a new enterprise agenda’, including a range of activity to expand the business base and improve job density;
- ‘A new deal with decent jobs for everyone that can work’, including a sustained focus on the economically inactive population;
- ‘Preparing our young people for the future’, including a renewed effort to support young people to make successful transitions from schools to further learning or work; and
- ‘Beyond civic foundations; a new civic culture’, including a new approach to engaging residents in growth and regeneration.
The Committee supported the growth agenda however raised concerns regarding the ‘working poor’ and the provision of housing within the Borough. This was addressed in more detail later on the agenda (Min. 20 refers - Local Plan Update).

The Committee, while welcoming larger businesses such as the forthcoming film studios, recognised the need for micro, small and medium sized enterprises in the Borough to encourage growth.

The report was noted.

20. **Local Plan Update**

The Chief Planning Director, Be First, presented a report to the Committee summarising the direction of travel for the emerging Local Plan.

The Local Plan would replace the current suite of documents comprising the Council’s local planning policy documents, previously adopted in 2010 and 2011. It provided a vision and framework for guiding development delivery within the borough to 2035 and had been prepared with regard to the Growth Commission and Borough Manifesto.

The report before the Committee did not go through each emerging policy in detail, however focused on key policy topics, outlining the emerging approach such as housing, development areas (including Town Centres), the economy, and, community and social infrastructure.

The Committee raised concerns regarding the provision of social housing within the Borough, in particular the working poor who could not afford to rent properties a year at market rate and properties advertised at 80% market rent which were still unachievable for many local people.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Social Housing addressed the Committee advising that the need for more social housing within the Borough was not disputed and that there was a target of approximately 2000 new social housing properties planned for the borough for the next couple of years. However it was noted that although the Council was one of the top Boroughs in London providing social housing, the actual number of properties being built was still relatively low. Unfortunately, approximately 200 – 250 properties were being lost from the Councils stock each year under the Right to Buy scheme.

The Director of Inclusive Growth advised the Committee that the Council had recently engaged with the Mayor of London’s Housing Programme, which would provide approximately 200 homes at 50% market rent.

Following questions by the Committee, the Chief Planning Director and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Social Housing advised that:

- The number of betting shops opening in the Borough were being monitored;
- The Local Plan would be responding to demographic changes within the Borough, for example religion and new places of worship;
- Changing attitudes would influence the Local Plan, for example young...
people were not as protective over the green belt as older generations were;
- Parking was an ongoing and difficult issue with new developments throughout the borough, on top of parking issues already faced by residents;
- A draft policy had been prepared regarding the loss of public houses;
- A monitoring officer had been employed to monitor new developments within the Borough; and
- There would be an annual monitoring report on the Local Plan.

The Committee noted the report.

Standing Order 7.1 (Part 2, Chapter 3, of the Council Constitution) was suspended at this juncture to enable the meeting to continue beyond the 9pm threshold.

21. Work Programme

The work programme was noted.