

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****22 June 2023****Report by Clerk****CLARIFICATION RECEIVED ON QUERIES RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETING****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To summarise the clarification received and circulated on queries raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 11 May.

RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that the Committee notes the position.

REPORT

3. In June, the Committee endorsed the final observations and recommendations made by the Committee in April 2022 arising from its self-evaluation, agreeing to implement recommendations made as appropriate.

4. One of the self-evaluation observations made was that when queries on reports are raised at meetings, it is not always possible for answers to be provided at the meeting itself. Although the provision of clarification or assurances subsequently was considered acceptable, it was agreed, in the interests of transparency, that the Clerk should submit a summary of clarification received and circulated to the next meeting.

5. A related observation endorsed by the Committee in June and highlighted subsequently, was that it is useful, where possible, for Members to alert the Clerk or Chair in advance to issues they wish to raise at meetings. This is with a view to helping to ensure that answers can be requested, prepared and made available to the Committee where possible at its meetings, also in the interests of transparency. Members of the Committee are therefore encouraged to alert the Clerk or Chair to issues in advance to the extent possible.

6. The clarification provided on queries raised at the meeting on 11 May, which has already been circulated through correspondence, is itemised in Appendix 1 to this report.

RECOMMENDATION

7. It is recommended that the Committee notes the position.

Local Government Access to Information Act 1985

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Background Papers:-

1. Audit and Scrutiny Committee Agenda – 11 May 2023 (Item 4)

CLARIFICATION SOUGHT AND CIRCULATED FOLLOWING MEETING ON 11 MAY 2023

| DATE OF MEETING AND ITEM | ITEM AND ISSUE(S) RAISED | CLARIFICATION |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11 May 2023 (Item 4) | <p data-bbox="443 512 1106 576"><u>CONSULTANCY EXPENDITURE AND RELATED LOG</u></p> <p data-bbox="443 616 1106 815">(a) In liaison with Property and Technical Services, it was agreed to seek and provide further clarification on whether or not any consultancy related costs listed in the log for Eastwood Leisure Centre might need to be repeated arising from the delay to the project.</p> <p data-bbox="443 855 1106 1015">(b) It was agreed to seek confirmation of the timeframe for submitting the next report to the Cabinet on the retention of the Council HQ building or the Office at Speirsbridge for office accommodation in future.</p> <p data-bbox="443 1054 1106 1254">(c) It was also agreed to seek clarification from departments if there were any instances in 2022/23 of consultancy costs for the same work being broken down, resulting in the costs of each element being under the £10,000 threshold for approval by directors.</p> | <p data-bbox="1144 616 2101 743">(a) The Head of Environment (Strategic Services) has confirmed that the same team is being used, so it is hoped to minimise this risk. Repeating some work cannot be ruled out, but it will be minimised.</p> <p data-bbox="1144 855 2101 983">(b) The Head of Environment (Strategic Services) has confirmed that it is intended to submit a report on this issue to the forthcoming meeting of the Cabinet, which is now scheduled to take place on Monday, 19 June.</p> <p data-bbox="1144 1054 2101 1118">(c) Feedback on this issue has been requested from the Corporate Management Team and will be collated and circulated on receipt.</p> |

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