

<b><u>MEETING</u></b> <b>FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND CONTRACTS COMMITTEE</b>
<b><u>DATE AND TIME</u></b> <b>WEDNESDAY 17TH MARCH, 2021</b> <b>AT 6.00 PM</b>
<b><u>VENUE</u></b> <b>VIRTUAL MEETING</b>

Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed additional papers relating to the submitted Public Question.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
5.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)	3 - 4

Salar Rida 020 8359 7113 [salar.rida@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:salar.rida@barnet.gov.uk)

Please note that this will be held as a virtual meeting. An audio and video live stream of the meeting can be accessed using the link on the webpage.

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**Public Question(s)**

Question	Agenda Item	Raised by	Question Raised	Answer
1	10	Mr John Dix	<p>The process of reviewing these contracts started in July 2018. A £500k budget was allocated to carry out the review. I asked repeatedly that the budget be used for external resources to carry out the review which could have been progressed during Covid. We are now in danger of the contracts expiring or simply being extended. 2.6 suggests contract might be extended for individual services for 1-3 years. Is that contractually possible, have Capita agreed to the principle of short extensions for individual services and do you regret not undertaking the year 6 review when it was originally timetabled.</p>	<p>The potential use of external resources was addressed in the report, which states that a further solution to the resourcing issues would be to bring in external consultancy support to carry out the Review. Whilst this would appear to address the capacity issue, it is considered that this is not compatible with the principle that the council’s senior officers should “own” and be fully accountable for the services that fall within their remit. It would, in effect, outsource the key decision-making processes that will determine the future direction of these services.</p> <p>The contracts can be varied by agreement between the parties. Capita have agreed to the principle of short extensions for individual services.</p> <p>Had the year 6 review of the CSG contract been conducted in 2019, then it is highly likely that the implementation of the outcomes of the review would have been disrupted by the impact of the pandemic. It is also possible that those outcomes would have had to be revisited in the light of the impact of the pandemic on the council’s future needs. The rationale for carrying out a combined review of the CSG and DRS contracts was set out in the report to Financial Performance and Contracts Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020. This was to enable better consideration of any interdependencies between services (as suggested in the public and best value consultation carried out in 2019), as well as permitting</p>

AGENDA ITEM 5

Public Question(s) – Financial Performance and Contracts Committee – 17 March 2021

Question	Agenda Item	Raised by	Question Raised	Answer
				more efficient use of resources in supporting the programme. It is considered that this rationale still stands.