STRATEGIC RESOURCES BOARD

Executive summary

1. This paper updates on the activity of the SRB over the 6 month from March 2017. The SRB remit can be found [here](#).

Issues and Options

2. SRB has met three times since the last update to Leadership Group in March 2017. Chairing changed from David McGill to Michelle Hegarty in September 2017.

3. Key points to note are:
   - Assessment of the first project portfolio project under the SRB governance arrangements. As a reminder this seeks to provide SRB with the assurance that projects are being run in accordance with our PPM policies and also to ensure that resources are in place for projects to enable delivery of corporate priorities. Associated with this SRB considered the portfolio risk register and the emerging risks and budget pressures anticipated in 17/18. Future work will focus on the development of a projects pipeline that will improve the agility of short term approval decisions and also enable longer terms resource planning for projects.
   - Approval of the approach to the budget process for 18/19 financial year, and early discussion on the strategic approach to budget setting with LG and SPCB.
   - Further improvements on assessing and releasing contingency to support the prioritised project pipeline. Funding has now been released for the Leadership Development Programme; the Security Systems Replacement Project; the IT Contract Supplier transition costs; the Finance Systems Strategy and Development Project, the Security Maturity Programme; a range of prioritised FM Project Work; and resources to relieve current operational pressures.

4. The most recent SRB meeting on 8 September considered an initial high level analysis of the SPCB budget, including staff budget bids, project bids and corporate and job related training budgets. A paper on the CIB Capacity Planning Exercise was also tabled for initial consideration. At this stage bids for project bids outstrip the availability of resources. As a result of this analysis SRB has agreed that a range of work now needs to be undertaken to further refine the budget for its early October meeting. This includes FM and Digital prioritisation exercises to inform a budget envelope bid; resource considerations in respect of implementing the PO Commission on Reform; development of the CIB capacity planning exercise; and the workforce planning analysis undertaken by HR. A more up to date position on projects and staffing will be provided at the meeting.
5. SRB will meet again on 10 & 31 October to progress the budget preparation process.

Resource Implications

6. The are no resource implications arising from this update report.

Dependencies

7. The work of the SRB is supported primarily by the Finance Office. In a wider sense it depends on effective collaboration with business areas in managing competing demands for finite resources. The success of the SRB ultimately depends on it being accepted as a final arbiter in a range of financial and resource decisions.

Governance issues

8. The SRB was established by and reports to the Leadership Group. A well as being available on a dedicated SharePoint site, agendas and meeting papers for each meeting are circulated to LG members in advance and meetings of minutes are circulated afterwards.

Publication Scheme

9. This paper can be published.

Decision

10. LG is invited to discuss this update report and whether there are any other issues it wishes SRB to consider further in relation to its remit and how it works.

Michelle Hegarty  
Assistant Chief Executive  
September 2017