

Data Migration Project

Suggested by Councillor Sudan.

At the [Audit Committee meeting on 25 July 2018](#) concerns were raised by the Audit and Risk Manager about this project in particular regarding the delay, budget and overall project management.

Subsequently a scrutiny suggestion has been received to investigate:

Potential scope:

- the reasons for delays in delivery of the project.
- the reasons for cost overruns and apparent weaknesses in budget control.
- accountability and responsibility for the failures that gave rise to these concerns including (but not exclusively) identifying of any weaknesses in project governance which would highlight any weaknesses in reporting systems and processes both at working, and project board level and which may have prevented concerns and risks from being escalated.
- whether there are any lessons to be learned that could be applied to other CBC projects

The proposal was discussed with the Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Digital & Transformation and the Audit & Risk Manager to gain further information.

Following the Audit Committee in July, detailed and comprehensive work has already been carried out by officers and the Audit Committee. It was established that some costs had been incorrectly charged to the Data Centre Migration Project as they related to other ICT projects. The exact costs were reported to the Audit Committee on [2 October 2018](#).

Significant work has been undertaken already in response to the report, both to understand the underlying causes and to address weaknesses in corporate governance. The Chair and Vice-Chair of Audit have received a draft report setting this out (28 September 2018) and indicated that they took comfort in the contents, but were keen that more work was undertaken to apportion accountability. Work to do so is currently underway through an in-depth consideration of reports at both the divisional and corporate levels. This is scheduled to be completed by early to mid-November 2018.

Scrutiny would not generally consider a review where matters are already being addressed or where Scrutiny would duplicate existing work as focusing on these matters may not necessarily add value in terms of officer and Member time, resources, money and outcomes. It is important that Members are aware of adding value and avoiding duplication.

However, given the level of interest in this item, as clearly expressed at the meeting of Full Council on 17 October 2018, there could be a role for Scrutiny in providing additional transparency to this matter and assuring Members and the public that this issue has been taken seriously and that appropriate measures are being put in place to avoid a repeat.

Given that substantial work will have already been undertaken and will be concluded in the near future, it is suggested that, this is not a review, but a one off report to be scrutinised and taken at a meeting within the 2018-19 municipal year.

Preliminary Recommendations:

- 1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission does not proceed with a scrutiny review due to the detailed, comprehensive information already being executed as part of the work for the Audit Committee.**
- 2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission reviews the viability that further follow up work be undertaken by the Audit Committee with regards to the Data Migration Project as requested by the Audit Committee and discussed at Full Council on 17 October 2018.**
- 3) Should recommendations (1) and (2) not be supported, that the OSC receive a 'one off' report from the Deputy Chief Executive setting out the potential scope highlighted above: research, information and evidence allowing members to 'scrutinise' the information available. This can be programmed into the 2018-2019 work plan.**