

Pieter Montyn
Chairman of the Performance and
Finance Select Committee

(01243) 777100
pieter.montyn@westsussex.gov.uk
www.westsussex.gov.uk

County Hall
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RQ



Andrew Barrett-Miles
Chairman
Environment Communities and Fire
Select Committee.

13th November 2018

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 1st October which I was able to discuss at the recent meeting of the Business Planning Group of the Performance and Finance Select Committee.

I note that your committee recently received an update on the plans for the procurement of a replacement highways maintenance service and that members raised a number of issues set out in your letter. Those cover concerns in relation to the oversight, risk analysis and controls for major procurement projects.

Your letter invites me to consider whether the Performance and Finance Select Committee should establish a Task and Finish Group to consider the governance of large scale procurements within the Council. Having considered that request with colleagues on the committee we concluded that we should invite the previously established Task and Finish Group to address issues of procurement governance and assurance when it is reconvenes to review the progress against its earlier recommendations. We did not however think that it would be useful to establish a new group or to initiate a separate line of inquiry at this time. It would also be preferable to have a larger evidence base from which to identify the areas of greatest risk across the broad range of the Council's procurement.

Your committee will continue to oversee progress of the plans for the new highways procurement and will be able to ensure that the clear governance, decision-making and risk analysis essential for a successful procurement will be tested as part of its scrutiny. In the meantime I will invite the Director of Finance Performance and Procurement to consider how the future work of the Contract Management Task and Finish Group can, when it reconvenes, widen its remit to address the procurement issues your committee has identified.

Yours sincerely,

Pieter Montyn
Chairman
Performance and Finance Select Committee