

## **CORPORATE SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

Monday, 27 February, 2012 at 6.00 p.m. in a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

### **Panel Members Present**

Councillor S. Coughlan (Chair)  
Councillor M. Flower (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor G. Illmann-Walker  
Councillor M. Longhi  
Councillor J. Murray  
Councillor J. Rochelle  
Councillor D. Shires

### **Portfolio holders present**

Councillor Mohammed Arif - Business Support Services

### **Officers Present**

Rory Borealis -	Executive Director (Resources)
Bethany Evans -	Head of People Services
Satpal Sokhi -	Senior HR Business Partner, Regeneration/Neighbourhood Services
Kam Sandhu-	Senior HR Business Partner, Children's Services, Resources, Social Care & Inclusion
Paul Milmore -	Head of Business Solutions
Steph Simcox -	Finance Manager

### **118/12 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillor K. Hussain.

### **119/12 SUBSTITUTIONS**

None received.

### **120/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

Councillor J. Murray declared an interest in Item 5 relating to pay and grading as his relative was affected by the proposals.

### **121/12 MINUTES**

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January, 2012, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record subject to the inclusion of Councillor Rochelle being included within the list of those attended.

## **122/12 PAY AND GRADING**

Members received a report updating them on the processes adopted for the last phase of the pay and grading project, namely the appeals process and any associated potential risks.

In response to a question by Members, Officers reported that the number of appeals at Walsall was lower than neighbouring authorities.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

## **123/12 QUARTER 3 FINANCIAL MONITORING POSITION FOR 2011/12**

Members received a report summarising the predicted revenue and capital outturn position for 2011/12 based on the performance up to the end of Quarter 3 (April to December 2011) for services within the remit of the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

The Executive Director (Resources) advised Members that there was a £210k underspend in the capital programme and a revenue underspend of £465k.

It was asked what the new Government directions were in relation to benefit overpayments. This was identified as a high risk within financial risk assessment – revenue budget 2011/12. Members also asked for clarity on the code of connection compliance including additional security software on mobile devices. Officers agreed to provide a written response to Members of the Panel.

Members then requested further details as to the reason for variations on capital budgets to which officers agreed that this would be undertaken for future reports.

### **Resolved**

1. That it be noted that the 2011/12 forecasted year end revenue position for services under the remit of the Corporate Scrutiny Panel is an underspend of £465k, after the use of approved reserves and carry forwards and that the capital programme is an underspend of £210k
2. That a response be circulated to Members in relation to the code of connection compliance including additional software on mobile devices and clarification on the new government direction in relation to benefit overpayments.

## **124/12 WORKING SMARTER UPDATE**

Members received a report updating them on the progress of the working smarter programme.

It was asked if further detail could be provided at future meetings highlighting where changes had been made to services/processes to make them more efficient and produce savings using systems thinking methodology. This information was requested in the form of before and after examples.

**Resolved**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That information be supplied to the next meeting of the Panel detailing before and after examples of where systems thinking methodology has been applied.

**125/12 WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12 AND FORWARD PLAN**

**Resolved**

That the work programme and forward plan be noted.

**126/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Panel would take place on 12 April, 2012.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 6.30 p.m.

Signed:

Date: