

CORPORATE SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

15 NOVEMBER 2010, 6.00pm

Panel Members Present Councillor M Longhi (Chair)
Councillor Sears (Substitute for Councillor
Flower)
Councillor R Burley
Councillor L Jeavons
Councillor J Rochelle
Councillor B Sanders
Councillor I Shires
Councillor D Turner

Officers Present Rory Borealis - Executive Director (Resources)
Steph Simcox - Service Accounting & Financial
Training Manager
Neil Picken – Senior Constitutional Services
Officer

Portfolio Holders None
Present

24/10 Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors M. Nazir and M. Flower.

25/10 Substitutions

It was noted that Councillor Sears was substituting for Councillor Flower.

26/10 Declarations Of Interest And Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

27/10 Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2010, copies having previously circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record, subject to the attendance list being revised to correctly state Councillor Nazir.

28/10 Quarterly Financial Monitoring Report

The Panel received a report summarising the predicted revenue and capital outturn position for 2010/11 based on the performance to the end of quarter 2 (April to September 2010), for those services within the remit of the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

The Executive Director (Resources) indicated that the position was satisfactory with a projected underspend position of £177k.

Members questioned the use of £1.628m reserves and sought assurances that there would indeed be an underspend. In response, it was reported that the use of reserves was an accepted and common budgeting technique which was planned at the start of the financial year. With regard to the underspend, it was confirmed that there was a projected underspend although this could change as it was merely a forecast of what was expected to happen.

Resolved

That the 2010/11 forecasted year end financial position for services under the remit of the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel be noted.

29/10 Budget Setting Framework

The Panel received a report setting out the budget setting framework for 2011/12 to 2014/15 and the associated timetable for budget activity.

It was reported that the budget process differed to those undertaken in previous years. Not only would benchmarking be undertaken with other Authorities but the process would be delivered as part of the resource allocation project stream of the councils working smarter programme. This programme firmly placed customers at the heart of the process.

Members were advised that the budget would be considered by Corporate Scrutiny on both the 9th and 10th December, 2010. This allowed sufficient time for them to consider Cabinets recommendations arising from its meeting due to be held on 17th November, 2010. Recommendations of other Scrutiny Committees would also be reported on these dates for consideration.

The Chairman stated that it was essential to understand the consequences of the budget, especially where it impacted most on staff reductions. It was the Panels expectation that this information would be made clear to them during deliberations throughout the budget process.

Resolved

That the budget framework and timetable for 2011/12 to 2014/15, including key reporting dates be noted.

30/10 Working Smarter – Establishment of a Working Group to focus on the service redesign programme (specifically the new operating model for support services)

The Panel received a briefing note on the new operating model “Delivering. Right, Fast and Simple”.

In essence, the new operating model would increasingly drive the way that support services would operate over the coming weeks, months and years. It would ensure that everything would be challenged with the intent of making it better, faster and more simple .

Given the scale and importance of the service redesign programme the Chair sought nominations from the Panel to sit on a working group.

Resolved

That the following Members form the membership of the ‘Right, Fast and Simple Working Group’:-

- Councillor Longhi
- Councillor D. Turner
- Councillor I. Shires
- Councillor L. Jeavons
- Councillor Rochelle
- Councillor Nazir

31/10 Date Of Next Meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 9 December 2010.

The meeting terminated at 6.25 p.m.

Signed:

Date: