

Star Chamber**20 January 2009****Report of Corporate Director (Finance and Performance)**

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To receive an update on the Star Chamber meetings held since the last report to Cabinet of 9 December 2008.			
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date Included in Forward Plan	N/A		
This report is public.			

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILLOR ROGER MACE

(1) That the report be noted.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Star Chamber is an informal meeting of Cabinet Members supported by senior officers. Its purpose is to provide a continuing process that considers options brought forward from cabinet portfolio holders with the aim of ensuring value for money by identifying potential efficiencies, and opportunities, where appropriate, for diverting resources away from non-priorities and into Council priorities. These options may well consider alternative methods of service delivery and how increased collaboration within Team Lancashire could provide efficiencies. Options will focus on financial, physical, and human resource matters.
- 1.2 Star Chamber also provides the framework and focus for achieving the financial savings targets included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Corporate Plan, and also to assist Cabinet in bringing forward its annual budget proposals.
- 1.3 The group meets regularly to consider proposals brought forward by Cabinet portfolio holders and reports for information are made on a regular basis into Cabinet and also into the Budget and Performance Panel.
- 1.4 Star Chamber works to revised Terms of Reference as agreed at the Cabinet meeting held on 2 September 2008.
- 1.5 Since the last report to Cabinet, Star Chamber met on 3 December and 7 January. At the time of preparing this report, it has not been possible to include any information about the issues discussed on 7 January.

2.0 Meeting 3 December 2008

- 2.1 At this meeting, Star Chamber continued to review progress in developing budget proposals that could be considered formally by Cabinet prior to recommending options to Council for approval.
- 2.2 In particular, the meeting considered the latest position in respect of the funding deficit to meet the Council's medium term financial strategy targets and it was reaffirmed that the funding deficit would be no less than £1.8m.
- 2.3 Preliminary consideration was given to a number of service areas on an informal basis with a view to determining if efficiencies could be achieved and further reports would be required.

As the report is for noting there is no options analysis for this report.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The work of the Star Chamber is critical to providing a challenge and review to both the way that our services are provided or their appropriateness to the targets set out in the Corporate Plan & Policy Framework. In particular this can be seen in:

- Corporate Plan Core Values – Sound Financial Management
- Corporate Plan Priority No 1 “To deliver value for money customer focused services”
- Revenue Budget & Capital Programme Monitoring
- Medium Term Financial Strategy target

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None arising directly as a result of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly as a result of this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly as a result of this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Corporate Plan 2008/09
Revenue Budget and Capital Programme
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2008

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