

BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Work Programme Report

27th November 2007

Report of Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members with regard to the Work Programme.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Members consider the referrals from Overview and Scrutiny and whether reports should be requested and the following items added to the Work Programme:-**
 - (a) That the Budget and Performance Panel be asked to look at non-priority repairs in Council Housing and Councillors be asked to inform Democratic Services of any cases they are aware of.**
 - (b) That the Budget and Performance Panel be asked to look at the budgetary issues regarding the funding of building conversions in the West End.**
 - (c) That the Budget and Performance Panel be asked to consider the adequacy of social rented housing provision in the District.**
- (2) That Members note the additional information regarding all free and subsidised parking permits authorised by the City Council, will be available as part of the Parking report already scheduled for consideration at the meeting on 26th February 2008.**
- (3) That Members note the upcoming Overview and Scrutiny training event taking place at Lancaster Town Hall on Monday, 10th March 2008.**

1.0 Introduction

This report provides Members with recommendations for additions to its Work Programme for consideration and advises of upcoming items to be dealt with by the work of the Panel.

1.1 **Referrals from Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

At its meeting on 12th December 2007, following discussion with the Cabinet Members with responsibility for Housing regarding the maintenance of some Council house gardens in Lancaster, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved:-

- (1) That the Budget and Performance Panel be asked to look at non-priority repairs in Council Housing and Councillors be asked to inform Democratic services of any cases they are aware of.
- (2) That the Budget and Performance Panel be asked to look at the budgetary issues regarding the funding of building conversions in the West End.
- (3) That the Budget and Performance Panel be asked to consider the adequacy of social rented housing provision in the District.

The Panel are requested to note that these referrals and agree to request reports on the highlighted matters and add them to its Work Programme. Members should also note that an earlier request to investigate the robustness of the financing of the Council's Capital Programme has been dealt with as part of the Budget and Policy Framework Proposals in this meeting.

1.2 **Upcoming Reports to the Panel**

At the Panel's meeting on 27th November 2007 it was agreed to request a report regarding Car Park pricing, the cost of enforcement, and the possible introduction of car park barriers. Following the consideration of Grants allocations at a special meeting on 15th January 2008, it was resolved:-

'That a report be brought back before the Budget and Performance Panel regarding all free and subsidised parking permits authorised by the City Council.'

Members are requested to note the additional parking matters will be available as part of the parking report scheduled for consideration at the next Panel meeting on 26th February 2008. An interim report of the Housing SLA Review will also be presented at the meeting on 26th February 2008 along with a 12 month evaluation of the Homeless Monitoring Review Form requested by the Panel at its meeting of 13th March 2007.

1.3 **Training Sessions**

Members should be advised that Francis Taylor will be providing a training session on 10th March 2008 that will deal predominantly with issues of Local Authority budgets and performance management. Full details of the session will be forwarded to Members as it is received by Democratic Services' staff.

All Members of the Panel have now responded to the request for participants in an upcoming Escendency Training Session and are now being requested to designate dates for their availability to take part.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Current Work Programme

Contact Officer: Jon Stark

Telephone: 01524 582132

E-mail: jstark@lancaster.gov.uk

Ref: