CABINET

Referral to Cabinet from Budget & Performance Panel 2007-08 Budget Variances - Outturn 7th October 2008

Report of Budget & Performance Panel

PURPOSE OF REPORT												
To report back to Cabinet on the outcomes of the special Budget and Performance Panel meeting convened to consider significant variances within the Capital and Revenue Outturn Report												
Key Decision		Non-Key Decision		Referral from Budget & Performance Panel								
Date Included i	n For	ward Plan										
This report is p	ublic											

RECOMMENDATIONS OF BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

That Cabinet note the resolutions of the Budget & Performance Panel and determine what further action, if any, is required.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Cabinet considered the Provisional Revenue and Capital Outturn 2007/08 together with a referral report from the Budget and Performance Panel at its meeting on 31st July 2008 (Minute 35 refers). The Budget and Performance Panel had considered the Provisional Revenue and Capital Outturn 2007/08 at a special meeting on 29th July 2008.

Among the recommendations agreed unanimously by Cabinet were:

- (3) "That Cabinet notes the recommendations of the Budget and Performance Panel that met on 29th July to consider the 2007/08 revenue and capital outturn report and that in particular, it has agreed a scrutiny process involving the relevant services and Cabinet Members to review significant outturn variances."
- (4) "That in respect of (3) above, Cabinet receives a report from the Budget and Performance Panel on the outcome of its deliberations."

(5) "That Cabinet notes that officers are undertaking further analyses of the outturn variances to assess any ongoing implications for future year's budgets, and requests a report back on these as part of the mid-year review of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. In particular, Cabinet would like a report on overspending on the Dome, Salt Ayre and Community Pools."

2.0 Details

2.1 At a special meeting of the Budget and Performance Panel on 16th September 2008 a number of services were invited to provide clarification on the reasons for the variances, actions which had been taken to address the variances and whether any would be ongoing and impact on this year's budget.

The services invited to the meeting were as follows: Council Housing, Legal and Human Resources, Health and Strategic Housing, Information and Customer Services, City Council (Direct) Services, Property Services, Cultural Services, Planning Services and Economic Development and Tourism.

The resolutions of the Budget and Performance Panel are set out below:

- (1) That the lessons learnt and actions proposed be noted.
- (2) That services be reminded of the need to report accurately into quarterly PRTs.
- (3) That any ongoing financial implications arising from the outturn variances be reflected in the next updated Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- (4) That a review be undertaken of how outturn information is presented.
- (5) That it be noted that the Budget and Performance Panel consider the actions to address the variances in relation to Salt Ayre are inadequate and should be revised to include improvements to project management and an energy efficiency programme.
- (6) That the outcome of this meeting be reported to Cabinet.
- 2.2 A number of these refer to operational matters on which officer action will be taken in due course.
- 2.3 Attached to this report are the minutes from the Budget and Performance Panel meeting together with the additional information supplied by the Head of Cultural Services in view of Cabinet's request for further information regarding overspending on the Dome, Salt Ayre and Community Pools (Cabinet Minute 35(5) as detailed above refers).
- 2.4 Cabinet should note that the Head of Cultural Services will be reporting into Star Chamber specifically on the issue of Community Pools.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

None directly from this report.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

None directly from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any on going financial implications from the 2007/08 outturn variances are being further researched and will be reflected in the next update of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

A number of the issues considered in the outturn review are the subject of further reports back into Star Chamber.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS						Contact Officer: Liz Bateson		
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Special	Meeting	of	the	Budget	and	E-mail: ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk		
Performance Panel agenda 16.9.08					Ref:			