

BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Star Chamber

25th November 2008

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 2 September 2008.

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 24 September 2008. Action notes are attached as an **Appendix**.

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.

DEPUTY 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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