

BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Work Programme Report 8th June 2010

Report of Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members regarding the Panel's Work Programme.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Members consider whether to include the items, as detailed at paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report, in the Panel's Work Programme.**
- (2) That the items to be carried forward for consideration at future meetings, as detailed in Appendix B to the report, be noted.**

Report

1. The Budget and Performance Panel is responsible for setting its own Annual Work programme within the Terms of Reference, as set out in Part 3, Section 13 of the Constitution and shown in Appendix A to the report
2. Prior to the new municipal year, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee wrote to all Councillors, the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors and Service Heads and, via the consultation programme and a press release, asked the public for issues that should be included in the Scrutiny Work Programme. Any salient issues received will be presented to the Panel at a future meeting, in consultation with the Chief Executive.
3. Members of the Budget and Performance Panel are entitled to give notice to the Chief Executive that they wish an item relevant to the Terms of Reference of the meeting to be included on the agenda for the first available meeting, and the meeting will determine whether the issue should be included in its Work Programme based on its relevance as compared to the priorities as set out in the Scrutiny Work Programme (Part 4, Section 5 of the Constitution).
4. Councillor Heath has requested that the following be considered for inclusion in the Panel's Work Programme, and the Chief Executive has been consulted regarding the request:

Williamson Park

A report to include:

- (a) Current management arrangements;
- (b) Staff turnover and reasons for this;

- (c) Finances;
 - (d) Current and future plans for improving the Park and its management;
 - (e) To what extent different stakeholders (staff, park users, councillors, and so on) are involved in developing these plans;
5. Councillor Whitelegg has asked that the following item be included in the Panel's Work Programme:

Pension Liabilities

A briefing note from officers on pension liabilities and the impact of these liabilities on the budgets of the Council up to and including 2014-15, which includes:

- (a) The impact of pension liabilities on the revenue budget in each of these 5 years;
- (b) The breakdown of pension liabilities by service and department of the Council;
- (c) The relationship between voluntary severance and voluntary redundancy on pension liabilities (whether it is financially beneficial to the Council to embark on voluntary severance/redundancy taking into account lump sums and pension enhancement of staff leaving Council service);
- (d) Blue sky thinking about how to reduce pension liabilities (taking into consideration how other local authorities have tackled this issue).

The Chief Executive has been notified and has advised that he does not feel point (b) is relevant, and that point (c) is a policy issue for Personnel Committee.

6. Members are asked to determine whether the issues should be included in the Panel's Work Programme based on their relevance as compared to the Panel's Terms of Reference and with reference to the Chief Executive's advice.
7. Items that will be carried forward for consideration at future meetings of the Panel are detailed at Appendix B.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	Contact Officer: Jane Glenton Telephone: 01524 582068 E-mail: jglenton@lancaster.gov.uk Ref: JEG
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