

# **BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

## **Work Programme Report 29 November 2011**

### **Report of Head of Governance**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update Members regarding the Panel's Work Programme.

**This report is public**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That Members note the items to be carried forward for consideration at future meetings, as detailed in Appendix A to the report.**
- (2) That Members consider whether they would like to include any further items in the work programme.**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report provides Members with recommendations for inclusion in the Panel's Work Programme and advises of possible upcoming items for consideration and work in progress.

#### **2.0 Report**

##### **2.1 Request from Panel Member**

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. 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).

Following a recent article in the local press, Councillor Brookes had raised concerns regarding the planned maintenance of council housing, and whether the council was getting value for money from its partnership contractor.

Councillor Brookes has requested that the planned maintenance of council housing be an item for consideration in the panel's work programme. The chief executive has been consulted regarding the request, and a briefing note has been arranged at his request for members' consideration.

Members are requested to determine whether consideration of planned maintenance of council housing should be added to the panel's work programme.

## 2.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee link member

Members are advised that at a meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 October 2011, members had discussed the issue of link membership with Budget and Performance Panel. It had been reported that at a meeting of full council held on 14 September 2011 it had been agreed to remove the requirement for a link member from the council's constitution.

As such, members of the committee were requested to determine a reporting mechanism between the committee and the panel. It was agreed that the chairman of the Budget and Performance Panel be invited to attend meetings of the committee as and when issues had arisen.

## 2.3 Upcoming Items

- Details of upcoming items are detailed in Appendix A to the report.

Members were advised that at a meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 October 2011, Councillor Barry had provided members with a breakdown of his portfolio which had included responsibility for markets, connecting with communities, voluntary sector and older people. Part of the discussion referred to issues surrounding service level agreements (SLAs).

Following this discussion the committee had agreed the following:

"That the issue of SLAs and reviewing the procedures and criteria for local organisations who receive funding from the council be referred to the Budget and Performance Panel for consideration."

Members are requested to include the issue of SLAs in its work programme and to agree a date for the issue to be considered.

## 2.4 Corporate Plan Performance

Members are advised that the deputy chief executive has requested that an item be included in the panel's work programme alongside the '2011/12 Qtr3 Corporate Financial Monitoring, including Treasury Management' report due to be considered on 21 February 2012. The report will be to update members on corporate plan performance.

## 2.5 Briefing Notes

As referred to at 2.1 in this report, a briefing note has been circulated to members as follows:

- Planned maintenance of council housing

As mentioned above, should members wish to discuss the briefing notes, it can be included as an agenda item for consideration at a future meeting of the panel.

### 3.0 Outstanding items

#### 3.1 Invitations to Cabinet Members

Members are reminded that they may wish to consider extending invitations to cabinet members to coincide with consideration of issues relevant to their respective portfolios, such as the budget, or issues relating to performance/financial management.

<b>SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b>	
The S151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.	
<b>MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b>	
The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments.	
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<b>Contact Officer: Tom Silvani</b>
None.	<b>Telephone: 01524 582132</b>
	<b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:tsilvani@lancaster.gov.uk">tsilvani@lancaster.gov.uk</a></b>