

# CABINET

18 October 2005

## BUDGET & PERFORMANCE PANEL

25 October 2005

### STAR CHAMBER

#### Report of Councillor Ian Barker

##### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To receive an update on the 'Star Chamber' meeting held since the last report to Cabinet of the 06 September 2005.

Key Decision

Non-Key Decision

Referral from  
Cabinet Member

X

This report is public

#### 1. RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET MEMBER

(a) That the report be noted

#### 2. Introduction

- 2.1 Star Chamber is an informal Member working group of Cabinet Members meeting with Officers to examine the Council's current and future spending plans to assist Cabinet with its responsibilities for making proposals in respect of the Policy & Budget Framework. The purpose and objective include value for money and to identify Gershon efficiencies and savings that can meet the targets set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 2.2 Star Chamber works to its revised Terms of Reference. The group meets regularly and reports for information are made on a regular basis into Cabinet and will also be made into the Budget & Performance Panel.
- 2.3 Since the last report to Cabinet, Phase III Star Chamber meetings have commenced, concentrating on budget issues in respect of Individual Cabinet Member Portfolio areas of specific responsibility. The following meetings have taken place:

- 01 September 2005 – Councillor Barker – see **Appendix A**
- 15 September 2005 – Councillor Quinton – see **Appendix B**

#### **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 and Improving Services
- Corporate Plan Priority No 5 “Delivering modern, high-performing services, that are accessible, cost effective and of a quality that reflect what people want and need.”
- Revenue Budget & Capital Programme Monitoring
- Medium Term Financial Strategy target

#### **CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability etc)**

None arising directly as a result of this report.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None arising directly as a result of this report.

#### **SECTION 151 OFFICER’S COMMENTS**

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Legal Services have been consulted and have no comments to make on this report.

#### **MONITORING OFFICER’S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Corporate Plan 2005/06  
 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme  
 Medium Term Financial Strategy – March 2005

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