

BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Work Programme 26 March 2013

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 updated work programme 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.
- 1.2 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.

2.0 Details

2.1 Customer Comments, Compliments and Complaints Policy and Guidance

Members are reminded that at its meeting on 6 November 2012, Cabinet had agreed the recommendations of the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee made at its meeting on 10 October 2012 with regard to the revised Customer Comments, Compliments and Complaints Policy. It was reported that the committee had recommended: -

'That the Budget and Performance Panel be requested to undertake the performance monitoring of the complaints procedure.'

Following consultation with the Head of Environmental Services, it had been recommended that the issue be included on the panel's work programme for

consideration at its meeting scheduled for 5 March 2013. This was agreed by the panel at its meeting on 27 November 2012.

The Head of Environmental Services has advised that officers were currently working on the details of compiling this report which would be report to the panel on a six-monthly basis commencing in 2013/14. As such it is expected that the first report will be presented to the panel in October 2013.

2.2 Salt Ayre Sports Centre

Members are reminded that at its meeting on 11 December 2012 the Assistant Head of Community Engagement (Wellbeing) had provided a report to update members on the social contribution Salt Ayre Sports Centre offered to the council and its partners.

At that meeting it was advised that further information in relation to performance against regional and national benchmarking standards, and possible reductions against management and admin costs would be presented to the panel at a future meeting.

The report is complex as it deals with comparative performance, human resource issues and financial savings and as such more time has been required to provide Budget and Performance Panel with a full picture. The report has been included in the panel's work programme for consideration at this meeting scheduled for 26 March 2013.

2.3 How the Current Economic Climate and Changes to Planning Legislation has Affected Revenue Coming into the Council

At its meeting on 15 October 2012, the panel had resolved that the Chief Executive be requested to arrange for the appropriate officer to attend and report on how the current economic climate and changes to planning legislation had affected revenue coming into the council. This report has been included in the panel's work programme for this meeting.

Members are advised that this report also covers a request made by the panel on 15 October 2012 for more information relating to Section 106 Monies and the introduction of new legislation, particularly concerning the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

2.4 Building Control

Members are reminded that at its meeting on 15 October 2012 the panel had resolved that the Chief Executive be requested to arrange for the appropriate officer to attend and report on Building Control, and that this be included in the panel's work programme.

Officers have been trying to establish how many options there are to vary the way the Council delivers this service and to reduce current losses in the Building Control Trading Account. Until very recently there appeared to be no viable option of shared service provision with a neighbouring local authority. Trading conditions have suddenly changed for neighbouring authorities and talks have opened to discuss new opportunities. This will enable a report with more options for the Council to consider to be prepared in the near future.

A report will be provided to the panel once more information is available.

2.5 Empty Houses, Voids, and why Properties are in Need of Repair

Members are reminded that at its meeting on 15 October 2012 the panel had referred to the briefing note regarding Empty Houses, Voids, and why Properties are in need of Repair and had agreed that a report from an appropriate officer should be requested providing further information. Following consultation with the chairman it was agreed that the Head of Environmental Services be invited to a future meeting to discuss issues relating to empty houses, voids, and why properties are in need of repair with the panel.

The Head of Environmental Services has been invited to attend a future meeting of the panel.

2.6 Upcoming items

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

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider whether they would like to include any further items in the work programme.

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