

# **BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

## **Update of Work Programme 4<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

### **Report of Head of Democratic Services**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The report sets out an updated Work Programme for the Budget and Performance Panel and is presented for the consideration of Members.

**This report is public**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That the latest position be noted and the Work Programme be updated accordingly.**
- (2) That the Panel consider reviewing the Terms of Reference of the Budget and Performance Panel in advance of the new municipal year.**
- (3) That officers be requested to scope the request from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Decriminalisation of Parking prior to inclusion in the work programme.**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Members are asked to consider updating the work programme to take account of changes emanating from the Value for Money/Efficiency Strategy and Best Value Performance indicators.
- 1.2 The Panel are asked to note the updates with regard to Partnership Monitoring and Service Level Agreements.
- 1.3 Members are asked to consider if the Terms of Reference relating to the Budget and Performance Panel are still relevant and appropriate.

#### **2.0 Details**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2005, the Budget and Performance Panel formally adopted the role of scrutiny for the Council's Value for Money/ Efficiency arrangements, and specifically the monitoring of achievement of the targets included in the Council's Annual Efficiency Statements. In view of this, it is proposed that the Monitoring of Corporate Property Strategy and the Procurement Update be removed as individual items from the Budget and Performance work programme. These items have now been incorporated into the work programme relating to the monitoring of the individual components of the Efficiency Strategy, which was approved by the Panel at the 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2006 Budget and Performance Panel meeting.
- 2.2 The report on Best Value Performance Indicators scheduled for the Budget and Performance meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2006 has been removed from the work programme. In previous years the ODPM has specified a revised set of BVPI's in February each year, generating a report for the Budget and Performance Panel advising Members of any new PI's, deletions or amendments. The ODPM has not proposed any significant changes to the BVPI suite for the year 2006/07 and therefore a report will not be necessary. Members will be advised of any future changes.
- 2.3 The report on Local Performance Indicators scheduled for the Budget and Performance Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2006 has been removed from the work programme. It is important that the Council develops a meaningful set of Local Performance Indicators, which focus on local priorities and better reflect local circumstances that can supplement the statutory BVPI's. However, this piece of work has a clear link with the 'Golden Thread' workshops being carried out to support the roll-out of the Escendency Performance Management System across the Council. Therefore the two pieces of work have been integrated and the timetable for the revision of the Local PI's is the same as that for the roll-out of Escendency.

Members will have the opportunity to scrutinise both together, following final agreement of the Escendency roll-out timetable.

- 2.4 Partnership Monitoring – At the Budget and Performance meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006 it was agreed that the Link Member would request the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider how the performance of the LSP Building Blocks could be effectively scrutinised by calling to account the Members who represented the Council on the LSP's. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee made the following recommendation to the Budget and Performance Panel in terms of monitoring:

The Budget and Performance Panel be recommended to review the effectiveness of the reporting arrangements for representatives on the LSP Executive and Building Blocks.

In addition, the Committee made the following two further recommendations which are being pursued through other channels.

- 1) The LSP request clarification from those who have received funding as to how the Community Strategy objectives have been met.
- 2) The LSP be recommended (via the Chief Executive) that minutes of the Local Strategic Partnership's Executive and Building Blocks be published on the internet.

- 2.5 Service Level Agreements - At the Budget and Performance Panel meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2006 it was agreed that Members would delegate the Service Level Agreement monitoring to the Principal Democratic Support Officer in consultation with the Chairman for forwarding to the Council's Executive function. It was noted that the Panel would receive a report following the review of the grants process by Overview and Scrutiny on the proposals for future grants allocation and monitoring.

A meeting is scheduled to take place between the Chairman, Principal Democratic Support Officer and the Senior Democratic Support Officer responsible for grants on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2006. The Chairman will provide Members with a verbal update at the Budget and Performance meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2006.

- 2.6 Terms of Reference Review - Members are requested to consider reviewing the Terms of Reference relating to the Budget and Performance for the new municipal year. This is considered best practice to ensure that the terms of reference are still relevant and appropriate.

- 2.7 At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2006, Members considered a briefing note provided by the Pre-Scrutiny Champion regarding the Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement. This issue was included in the Forward Plan and would be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Concern was expressed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee over the deficit in the on-street and off-street parking enforcement accounts and the number of unpaid parking tickets that had not been collected by Parkwise. It was noted that Cabinet had recommended that the Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement was to be reviewed after 2 years and it was agreed that the this review would be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme.

The Committee agreed that the issue of enforcement and collection should be referred to the Budget and Performance Panel for further consideration. The Panel are asked to scope the project before formally adding it into their work programme.

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Liz Bateson
None	<b>Telephone:</b> 01524582047
	<b>E-mail:</b> ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk
	<b>Ref:</b>