

# BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

## STAR CHAMBER

04 APRIL 2006

### Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To receive an update on the 'Star Chamber' meeting held since the last report to Cabinet of the 17 January 2006.			
Key Decision		Non-Key Decision	Referral from Cabinet Member
			4
Date Included in Forward Plan	N/A		
This report is public			

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the report be noted.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 Since the last report, Star Chamber have assisted in bringing forward proposals in respect of the revenue budget and capital programme. These were formally reported through to full council as the Cabinet's budget and policy framework proposals and duly approved by full council at its 1<sup>st</sup> March meeting.
- 1.4 Since then, Star chamber has meet once, on 22<sup>nd</sup> March where it agreed its immediate work programme and recommended revised Terms of Reference for the next round of Star Chamber meetings and these have subsequently been agreed by

the Leader of the Council. These revised Terms of Reference are attached for information.

#### **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 and Rural Proofing)**

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 further comments.

#### **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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