

BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Star Chamber

23rd October 2007

Report of the Leader of the Council

| PURPOSE OF REPORT | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| To receive an update on the Star Chamber meetings held since the last report to Cabinet of 4 September 2007. | | | | |
| Key Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-Key Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> | Referral from Cabinet Member |
| Date Included in Forward Plan | N/A | | | |
| This report is public. | | | | |

(1) That the report be noted.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Star Chamber is an informal meeting of Cabinet Members supported by senior officers. Its purpose is to provide a continuing process that examines current and future spending plans with the aims of ensuring value for money, identifying efficiencies and diverting resources into Council priorities and away from non-priorities, as well as alternative methods of delivery. It also provides the framework and focus for achieving the financial savings targets included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and those efficiencies required under Gershon. Consequently, it will look at financial, physical, and human resource matters.
- 1.2 The group meets regularly and reports for information are made on a regular basis into Cabinet and also into the Budget and Performance Panel.
- 1.3 Star Chamber works to revised Terms of Reference as agreed at the Cabinet meeting held on 5 June 2007.
- 1.4 Since the last report to Cabinet, Star Chamber met on 12 September and 19 September. Action notes are attached as an **Appendix**.

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
- Corporate Plan Priority No 1 “To deliver value for money customer focused services”
- 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

None arising directly as a result of this report.

MONITORING OFFICER’S COMMENTS

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Corporate Plan 2006/07
Revenue Budget and Capital Programme
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2006

Contact Officer: Roger Muckle

Telephone: 01524 582022

E-mail: rmuckle@lancaster.gov.uk

Ref: RCM/JEB