

BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Work Programme Report 23rd October 2007

Report of Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members with regard to the work programme.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Members consider the referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with regard to recharging and whether a briefing note or report would be appropriate.**
- (2) That Members consider the request from Overview and Scrutiny Committee with regard to Parking Strategy and whether this should be added to the work programme.**
- (3) That Members note that a report on Procedure and Performance in the Council's Collection of Vehicular fines will be available for consideration at the next Budget and Performance Panel meeting.**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Referral from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Recharging- Inhouse costs

At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 5th September 2007 Members resolved to request the Budget and Performance Panel to consider the issue of Recharging within the Council with particular regard to City Council (Direct) Services and Information Services.

This request stemmed from a presentation from the Cemeteries team illustrating the improvements to maintenance within the Council's cemeteries since Health & Strategic Housing had assumed responsibility for the service, including responsibility for gravediggers and maintenance. It was reported that the maintenance budget

could be used more effectively without the recharging costs that CC(D)S had previously imposed.

Similarly it was noted that enquiries regarding coloured photocopies revealed that it was less expensive to use a local stationer than order copies in-house. For example an A4 sheet of coloured paper was priced by IS at 64p for up to 10 copies (55p for between 10 and 50 copies and 40p per sheet for over 50 copies) whereas a local printer quoted 30p a copy for up to 100 copies, reducing to 20p a copy for over 500 copies.

Members are asked to consider whether it would be useful to request a briefing note or report on this.

1.2 **Referral from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Parking Strategy**

At its meeting on 5th September 2007, in response to a referral from Cabinet with regard to the Parking Strategy, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to review the Parking Strategy in six months. However it was noted that there were one of two issues which warranted more immediate consideration, one of which has been referred to the Panel. This relates to the issue of pricing of car parks and the possibility of installing barriers.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that the Panel consider the issue of pricing of car parks and the possibility of installing barriers and question the cost of charges against the cost of enforcement.

The Panel are requested to consider whether to add this to their work programme.

1.3 **Procedure and Performance in the Council's Collection of Vehicular fines**

At the last Budget and Performance Panel meeting Members requested further information with regard to this issue. This is currently being produced and it should be available for the next meeting.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	Contact Officer: Liz Bateson Telephone: 01524 582047 E-mail: ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk Ref: