

APPENDIX A

PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

Chair's briefing – Monday, 17th June 2013

Members:

Councillor Tony Ferrari (Chairman)
Councillor Sue Anderson (Vice-Chair Elect)

Officer attendees:

Brian Jones, Public Health Business Manager (item 2)
Simon George, Director of Finance & Assurance (item 3)
Martin Randall, Senior Professional, Corporate Performance & Planning (item 4)
Guy Fiegehen, Scrutiny Officer

NOTES

1. Welcome/introductions

The Chairman and Vice-Chair Elect welcomed officers attending.

2. Matters arising from the last P&F:

- Public Health Transition and Expected Running Costs

The previous Chair and Vice-Chairman had requested further briefing on the financial information provided following the P&F meeting on 29th January 2013, especially the £17 million of 'transfer payments'. The Public Health Business Manager apologised that little explanation had been provided and elaborated on the detail in the two tables.

The Chairman and Vice-Chair Elect requested a written explanatory overview including: background and context; clarification of the funding arrangements for the service; and reasons for differences in income levels and spending patterns between Barnet and Harrow. In view of the time since Members made their request the Chairman and Vice-Chair Elect asked to see the note before the Sub-Committee's meeting on 11th July.

The Chairman and Vice-Chair Elect thanked the Public Health Business Manager for attending.

3. Q4 Finance – Update

The Director of Finance & Assurance said the Q4 update was in effect the Capital and Revenue Outturn report to Cabinet on 20th June. It had been a good year financially for the council including a £1million underspend. The spending protocol to incur discretionary spending only if absolutely necessary had had a key role. As well as setting up specific reserves for the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) implementation cost of £4.8 million and adding another £1 million to the general reserve fund officers were recommending a Business Risk Reserve of £1.7 million.

The Chairman and Vice-Chair Elect asked to see the list of disputed contracts underlying the Business Risk Reserve and that in presenting his report to P&F on 11th July the Director of Finance & Assurance explain the 50% under spend on capital.

4. Corporate Scorecard Q4 2012/13 and update on indicators identified for further monitoring

The scorecard was reviewed and updates considered: detailed comments and follow-up actions are identified in Appendix B. The Chairman and Vice-Chair Elect said they wanted the 'Watch List' for further monitoring to focus only on those items Members expect they can do something about before the next council elections in the rest of this council and asked for those that did not fit this criterion to be removed.

5. P&F sub-committee meeting – 11th July 2013

The provisional agenda items were confirmed as follows:

1. Appointment of Vice-Chair
2. P&F Chairman's report (Guy Fiegehen)
3. Revenue and capital monitoring 2012-13 Quarter 4 (Simon George)
4. Revenue and capital outturn 2012-13 (Simon George)
5. Children and Families: Performance Issues (Catherine Doran)
6. Private Rented Sector review: progress report (Lynne Pennington/Alison Pegg)

Guy Fiegehen
Scrutiny Officer
June 2013