

REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	24 February 2014
Subject:	Report from the Capital Expenditure Challenge Panel
Responsible Officer:	Alex Dewsnap Divisional Director, Partnership Development and Performance
Scrutiny Lead Member area:	Corporate Resources: Councillor Adam Swersky (Performance Lead) Councillor Stephen Wright (Policy lead)
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Report from the Capital Expenditure Challenge Panel

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report accompanies the report from the Capital Expenditure Challenge Panel. The report outlines the review’s observations and findings with regard the council’s Capital programme.

Recommendations:

Councillors are recommended to:

- I. Consider the findings and recommendations of the Capital Expenditure Challenge Panel.
- II. Refer the review’s recommendations to Cabinet for consideration.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

A Challenge Panel to investigate the recurrent capital underspend of the Capital Programme Budget was requested at the meeting of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee (3 July 2014).

The Challenge Panel gathered evidence, heard from and questioned witnesses, and considered evidence put before them in order understand the impact of the capital underspend upon the residents of Harrow, the Council and its partners. The Panel also sought to identify the key reasons for the capital under spend and to assess the financial implications. Additionally, the panel reviewed the management of the Council's capital programme and identified proposals for improvement.

The panel found that overall, the corporate business processes to develop the capital programme is strong and well managed, but there are areas of weaknesses within the management of the programme which require improvement.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report. However, if the report's recommendations are accepted, the services considered will provide detail of any costs likely to be incurred.

Legal Implications

Performance Issues

No specific performance issues are associated with this report.

Environmental Impact

No specific environmental impact is associated with this report.

Risk Management Implications

There are none specific to this report.

Equalities Implications

A comprehensive Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was undertaken in the development of our Council Tax Support Scheme which was considered by the challenge panel as evidence. However, an EqIA was not carried out specifically for this report. as the report includes no proposals for service change. Where changes result from the acceptance of this reports recommendations, these will be accompanied by an EqIA.

Council Priorities

This review relates to all four of the Corporate Priorities 2014/15, including:

- Making a difference for the most vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for families
- Making a difference for local businesses

Ward Councillors notified:	N/A
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Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Stella Agunabor, Policy officer. 0208 424 1820

Background Papers: Capital Expenditure Challenge Panel Scope.