

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

CABINET – 19 MARCH 2015

REFERENCE FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 24 FEBRUARY 2015

REVENUE CHALLENGE PANEL REPORT

The Committee received the report of the Divisional Director, Strategic Commissioning, which set out the observations and findings of the Revenue Challenge Panel with regard to the Council's budget setting and associated processes.

The Chair thanked all those involved in the review for their work and informed the Committee that the recommendations, if agreed, would be taken to the Cabinet meeting on 19 March.

The Panel Chair introduced the report and described the key points identified during the review, namely:

- there was a need for a longer term budget – a 3 year forecast would be more helpful;
- it would be necessary to move away from directorate based budgets towards outcome based budgets;
- the review panel had received presentations from a number of other local authorities and had been particularly impressed with Warrington;

In response to a Member's query about whether the shift would be incremental, the Panel Chair replied that the review panel had been cautious about the speed of change, and had suggested a timeframe of 100% outcome based budgets by 2020. The process would begin with next year's budget.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report of the Revenue Challenge Panel review be noted;
- (2) the recommendations included in the report be agreed and referred to Cabinet for consideration.

Background Documents:

Draft minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 24 February 2015

Contact Officer:

Una Sullivan, Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

Tel: 020 8424 1785

Email: una.sullivan@harrow.gov.uk