

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	18 January 2007
Subject:	LIFT/PFI Project
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Geoff Wingrove, Director of Strategic Services Department, People First
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Eric Silver, People First Portfolio Holder for Adult Community Care Services and Issues Facing People with Special Needs
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report sets out a proposed new framework for monitoring and maintaining oversight of the LIFT/PFI project to replace the HOST Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet is requested to agree to:

1. The establishment of an informal Member Steering Group, comprising the Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holder for Adult Community Care Services and Issues Facing People with Special Needs and an Opposition Member, to maintain a general overview of the project.

2. The responsibility for more formal periodic monitoring of the project remaining with the Scrutiny Sub-Committee for Adult Health and Social Care and it is suggested that, with the agreement of the chair of the sub-committee, a report be made to the sub-committee following agreement of the Stage 2 process by Cabinet.

REASONS:

- The LIFT/PFI Project has a capital value of £10m and affects three wards in different parts of Harrow.
- From its inception a number of years ago this project has benefited throughout from cross party support.

SECTION 2 - REPORT

2.1 Background

2.1.1 The Cabinet meeting of 15 December 2005 authorised the Director of Strategy to seek agreement from the Strategic Partnering Board to the LIFT Co Stage 1 Tender Submission and progress to Stage 2, subject to any adjustments required to the Stage 1 proposal. It also delegated responsibility for the development of the Business Case and subsequently the business plan to the HOST Project Panel.

2.1.2 Following that meeting, the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the project was finalised in agreement with the HOST Panel and submitted to the Department of Health (DH) on 31 March 2006. DH approval of the OBC and agreement to the £10m of PFI credits was received on 13 October 2006. Taking account of the significant amount of time that had elapsed since the Stage 1 proposals were received, officers reviewed the earlier proposals and provided updated information to LIFTCo. On the basis of a revised specification, a Stage 1 agreement is being concluded with LIFT through the Strategic Partnering Board.

2.1.3 The construction of three new Neighbourhood Resource Centres (NRCs) is a landmark project for Harrow's residents and the Council. The NRCs will be community resources which will provide increased capacity for people with learning disabilities and serve as a base from which they will be given support to help them participate more fully in the cultural and educational life of Harrow. The NRCs, which will not replicate existing day centres, will be designed imaginatively to provide improved activity space and enable the Council to offer a wider range of activities and services for people with learning disabilities in a pleasant and rewarding environment.

2.2 Current Position

2.2.1 Stage 2 of the LIFT process, which involves the planning, design, costing and final approvals of the project up to contract signature, is now underway. Taking account of the fact that all work within this stage is done at the Council's cost and that significant risks rest with the Council, it

is essential that Members are kept fully briefed about progress. The change of administration and subsequent decision to disband the HOST panel mean that a new mechanism for monitoring the project needs to be established. It is proposed that a small Member group comprising the Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holder for Adult Community Care and Special Needs together with one Opposition Member be set up to maintain a general overview of the project. This arrangement would link with the Adult Health & Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee which would be responsible for more formal, periodic monitoring. The Stage 2 agreement and financial close would still need to be ratified by Cabinet, as resolved in their meeting of 15 December 2005.

2.2.2 The above arrangement will ensure cross party participation and an appropriate framework of accountability in relation to:

- finance
- legal agreements
- the achievement of service objectives and required outcomes
- the effective management of risks
- stakeholder engagement and partnership working

In addition, it will ensure that the project meets its commitment to two of the Council's corporate priorities:

- Making Harrow safe, sound and supportive
- Tackling waste and giving real value for money

SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE

Chief Finance Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: ...Paula Foulds.....
		Date: ... 13 December 2006.....
Monitoring Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: ...Helen White.....
		Date: ... 13 December 2006.....

SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact: Marilyn Vertes, Senior Professional, People First Strategic Services
 Tel: 0208 424 1922 (Ext 2922)

Background Papers

LIFT/PFI Project Cabinet Report 15 December 2005
 Minutes of HOST Panel Meeting 27 March 2006

1.	Consultation	NO
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2.	Corporate Priorities	YES
3.	Manifesto Pledge Reference Number	Not Applicable