

Meeting:	Performance and Finance
Date:	15 July 2008
Subject:	Chairman's report
Key Decision: (Executive-side only)	No
Responsible Officer:	Tom Whiting, Assistant Chief Executive
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Paul Osborn
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

## **SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This report sets out issues considered by the Chairman since the last meeting of the Performance and Finance Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Committee is requested to:

- 1) Note and endorse the content of the report
- 2) Identify any potential issues for Performance and Finance to investigate in the future.

## **SECTION 2 - REPORT**

### Background

Under the protocols established for the agenda planning process of the Performance and Finance Committee, the Chairman receives detailed performance information from a wide variety of sources – both internal and external – on a monthly basis.

At the monthly meeting, assisted by officers, the chairman considers the scorecards on a “by exception” basis, identifying those where questions exist about current performance.

Individual performance indicators are then selected, and cross-cutting trends are identified. The background to the performance is considered in more detail. The agenda is then built around these issues.

### Current situation

Members are being asked to note and endorse the agenda items for this meeting as outlined below.

The table indicates the origin of items for this meeting’s agenda; members are being asked to endorse these decisions, which were made by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman following a briefing provided by the scrutiny officer.

They are also being asked to identify any additional items which can be considered by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in the course of planning for the next meeting.

### Why a change is needed

Not applicable.

### Main options

It is recommended that members endorse the proposals, which are reflected in the rest of the committee papers and which were circulated to members immediately after the chairman’s meeting to which they refer.

### Other options considered

No other options are being presented.

Recommendation: - to note and endorse the contents of the report, and to identify any potential issues for P&F to investigate in the future.

### **Considerations**

Resources, costs and risks: Failure to endorse the Chairman’s decision will not prevent the meeting from continuing and the agenda provided being considered. However, it will damage the principle of collegiate decision-making in terms of the agenda planning process.

Staffing/workforce: none  
Equalities impact: none specific  
Legal comments: none  
Community safety: none

Financial Implications

None specific.

Performance Issues

The below issues were considered:

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Chairman's proposal</b>
<p><u>Workforce development</u></p> <p>Committee had been due to consider this issue previously, but was not able to do so at the last committee.</p> <p>The general issues remain the same, and performance has generally not improved. Workforce development and associated issues remains a significant challenge for the organisation.</p>	<p>It was recommended that this matter be considered by committee.</p>
<p><u>Major projects and property</u></p> <p>The C&amp;ES Risk Register identifies as a high risk the council's approach to major building and property projects. Mitigants are in place, but it seems unclear how the further actions cited, which includes the continued delivery of existing programmes and projects, will contribute to improvement. Of particular note is the need to "<i>develop strategies to influence property Harrow does not directly control like RAF Bentley Priory and Kodak</i>"</p>	<p>Given the high risk, and the partnership focus, it was recommended that this be considered at committee. However, following advice from the Corporate Director on issues relating to commercial confidentiality on some current projects, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman agreed that this issue would be considered in full at the next meeting of the sub-committee, when it would be easier to hold a public discussion on these issues.</p>
<p><u>Northwick Park maternal deaths</u></p> <p>Maternal deaths at Northwick Park have caused significant concern recently. Following previous worries</p>	<p>It was recommended that committee look at this in advance of more detailed O&amp;S consideration of the issue in the autumn. Evidence on performance gathered at P&amp;F could then be used to</p>

expressed some months ago, an improvement plan and a complete refurbishment and reorganisation of the maternity department was undertaken, but recent figures indicate that the number of maternal deaths remains unacceptably high.	support this O&S work.
<p><u>CIP redevelopment</u></p> <p>The redevelopment and review project for the CIP, which has been undertaken by Chris Bowron (on secondment from the IDeA) has now been completed.</p>	<p>This is not a performance issue per se but it was recommended that committee look at this issue, given the importance of the CIP to the future performance landscape of the authority, and reflecting a need for P&amp;F to make suggestions as to how it might contribute to the monitoring of the CIP itself.</p>
<p><u>Standing Report, Finance</u></p> <p>This will be the first meeting at which the Standing Report for Finance is produced for Committee. This report will be produced on a quarterly basis hereafter, with a focus on particular issues to be defined by the P&amp;F Protocol.</p>	<p>This is a regular report.</p>

These issues arise from a number of PIs which, on the basis of an analysis, have been distilled down into these items, some of which are cross-cutting.

Legal and financial implications

There are no legal or financial implications to this report.

**SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE**

Name: Sheela Thakrar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date: 24 June 2008		
Name: Hugh Peart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Monitoring Officer
Date: 25 June 2008		

## **SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Contact:** Ed Hammond, Scrutiny Officer, Strategic and Performance  
020 8420 9205: [ed.hammond@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:ed.hammond@harrow.gov.uk)

### **Background Papers:**

Improvement Board papers, Q4 (end of year)  
LAA Scorecard, Q4  
Various NHS scorecards (incl NWL Hospitals etc)  
Strategic Performance Report, Q4