

Meeting:	Performance and Finance
Date:	29 October 2008
Subject:	Chairman's report
Key Decision: (Executive-side only)	No
Responsible Officer:	Ed Hammond, Strategy and Improvement Tom Whiting, Assistant Chief Executive
Portfolio Holder:	N/a
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.
- 3) Nominate the Chairman to submit a summary of Harrow-wide performance issues, as identified through the Chairman's Meetings and at this meeting, to the next convenient meeting of Overview and Scrutiny.

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.

Additionally, members are requested to nominate the Chairman to provide a summary of Harrow-wide performance issues, as a component of the scrutiny leads’ report, to the next meeting of Overview and Scrutiny.

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. They are also recommended to task the Chairman with submitting a summary of performance issues to the next meeting of Overview and Scrutiny.

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:

Issue	Chairman’s proposal
<p><u>Six month updates</u></p> <p>Updates on the obesity, Accord MP and Beacon Centre reviews</p>	<p>To consider at committee, as agreed in the reports.</p>
<p><u>Workforce development</u></p> <p>This issue was considered in July. Following this, Q1 08/09 information indicated that concerns still existed about the capacity to deliver HR improvements in line with the Council Improvement Programme.</p> <p>The Director of HR was invited to attend to discuss these issues, and the value of his presenting another report to the sub-committee at the Chairman’s Meeting in September.</p>	<p>Recommended not to consider at committee, following discussions with officers. Information to be passed to O&S.</p>
<p><u>Healthy schools</u></p> <p>Healthy schools has been below target</p>	<p>Recommended to consider at</p>

<p>for some time. The expectation of it remaining so throughout 08/09 is concerning, and on this basis it meets the “by exception” criteria for consideration at P&F – notwithstanding the confidence in new targets being met in Dec 09.</p>	<p>committee.</p>
<p><u>Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)</u></p> <p>The risk level on the register has jumped from “green” to “red” for the last period. In particular, it raises concerns for all council services, since ERP operates as a back-end to many of the council’s financial processes.</p> <p>It meets the by exception criteria in every respect other than the fact that it has not been “red” for two reporting periods, but it is nonetheless recommended that P&F examine the issue on account of the potential impact of poor performance in this crucial area.</p>	<p>To consider at committee.</p>
<p><u>Major Projects and Property</u></p> <p>Members may recall that this item was raised for possible consideration at the last meeting, but deferred as there were certain issues relating to commercial confidentiality that would have militated against a full discussion.</p> <p>Following further developments P&F does not now seem to be the most appropriate place for this work. Issues regarding major projects go beyond P&F remit. O&S might be interested in carrying out further work in this issue.</p>	<p>Recommended that this issue be reported to O&S as something which might merit further investigation.</p>
<p><u>Standing Report, Finance</u></p> <p>The content of the report in a given quarter is defined by the P&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: 15 October 2008		
Name: Stephen Dorrian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer
Date: 15 October 2008		

SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact: Ed Hammond, Scrutiny Officer, Strategic and Performance
020 8420 9205: ed.hammond@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

Improvement Board papers, Q1
Various NHS scorecards (incl NWL Hospitals etc)