

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	16 th March 2009
Subject:	Report from the Performance and Finance Sub-Committee Chairman
Responsible Officer:	Tom Whiting Assistant Chief Executive
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix One: Performance and Finance Sub-Committee Chairman's Report.

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the items that have been considered by Performance and Finance Sub-Committee at the 21st January 2009 meeting.

Recommendation:

Councillors are recommended to:

- Note the issues as set out in the report of the Performance and Finance Sub-Committee meeting held on 21st January 2009.

Section 2 – Report

Current situation

Not appropriate to this report.

Why a change is needed

Not appropriate to this report.

Main options

Not appropriate to this report.

Other options considered

Not appropriate to this report

Recommendation:

To note the report from the Chair of the Performance and Finance Sub-Committee.

Considerations

Resources, costs and risks

None

Staffing/workforce

None

Equalities impact

None

Legal Implications

None

Financial Implications

None.

Performance Issues

These are considered in the report attached below.

Risk Management Implications

There are none specific to this report.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

This is no longer required.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Ofordi Nabokei, Scrutiny Officer, 020 8420 9205 or
ofordi.nabokei@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: None

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES / NO
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES / NO

Meeting:	Performance and Finance
Date:	21 January 2009
Subject:	Chairman's report
Key Decision: (Executive-side only)	No
Responsible Officer:	Ofordi Nabokei, Strategy and Improvement Tom Whiting, Assistant Chief Executive
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
6 Month Update: On Obesity Review	To consider at committee, as agreed in the reports.
<u>Decent Homes</u> This was considered in November. Q2 data showed some improvement. Whilst there has been an improvement, further information is necessary to ascertain whether the improvement was as a result of improvement action that has been undertaken. This is a cross cutting issue and other factors can and may affect the ability to attain the decent homes target.	That this matter should continued to be monitored and come to committee.
<u>Housing Repairs</u> Performance has remained static and the focus has been on controlling repairs expenditure.	This matter should continue to be monitored and come to committee.
<u>Timeliness of Social Care Assessment DHDSO</u> This has remained amber for 2 quarters. The percentage of assessments not completed within time scales was unacceptably high. A zero-tolerance policy has been implemented.	This matter should continue to be monitored. It was decided in this instance it should not come to committee as a Zero Tolerance policy has only just been introduced which should raise this status. It is important to see if there has been an improvement in Q3 before it comes to review.
<u>Healthy schools</u> 'Healthy schools' has been below target for some time. The expectation of it remaining so throughout 08/09 is concerning, and on this basis it meets the "by exception" criteria.	Recommended not to come to committee as it came to the pervious committee for consideration. However this issue should continue to be monitored closely.

<p><u>Primary Dental Service Access</u> The current issue affecting performance is public awareness of the availability of dental care to people not currently registered with a practitioner. There is a social marketing plan in place to highlight the availability of dental care.</p>	<p>Recommended not to come to committee but for this issue to continue to be monitored because a plan to deal with this was implemented in October 2008.</p> <p>It is early days as the plan was only put in place in October. Therefore it should be monitored to see the impact the plan has on this issue.</p>
<p><u>Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)</u> The risk level on the register has remained “red”. It raises concerns for all council services, since ERP operates as a back-end to many of the council’s financial processes and could have significant impact on poor performance.</p>	<p>Not to come to committee as it was an item presented at the last P&F Committee meeting and there is now a workforce strategy in place.</p> <p>Therefore it is recommended that this issue continue to be monitored.</p>
<p><u>Stroke Patients spending >90% of their time on a stroke unit</u> The PCT is adrift of the stroke target. This is a data and performance issue. The data is being re-run at the end of Q2 with further Department of Health guidance on ensuring correct data is analysed.</p> <p>The ‘current performance’ and ‘trajectory’ are both at red status.</p>	<p>It was decided not to look at this issue for the time being as there is a Healthcare for London Stroke Consultation taking place in 2009 and Harrow has a place on the Pan London Joint OSC.</p>
<p><u>Failure to improve and communicate the value for money of the service within Community and Environment</u> The risk level on the register has jumped from “green” to “red” for the last period. Risk has increased as a result of allocation of support service charges which could affect overall performance.</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.</p>	<p>Recommended not to come to committee but for this issue to continue to be monitored as a number of options were being considered to improve this.</p> <p>This issue will be closely monitored in Q3 to ascertain what improvements / plans have been implemented to improve this outcome and whether or not there has been an improvement.</p>
<p><u>Bed-Blocking</u> Concerns have been raised that the Council maybe keeping people in local hospitals for longer than would be possible if there were provisions for them in terms of care at home or care accommodation</p>	<p>Recommended that this issue come to the next P&F Committee in March as this item came to light just before P&F Committee was due to be held.</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

This is no longer required

SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact: Ofordi Nabokei, Scrutiny Officer, Strategic and Performance
020 8420 9205: ofordi.nabokei@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

None.