

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 11 October 2010

Subject: Report of the Performance and Finance scrutiny sub-committee chair

Responsible Officer: Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director, Partnership, Development and Performance

Scrutiny Lead Member area: Cllr Sue Anderson
(Chair, Performance and Finance scrutiny sub-committee)
Cllr Barry Macleod-Cullinane
(Vice-Chairman, Performance and Finance scrutiny sub-committee)

Exempt: No

Enclosures: Appendix A – scrutiny reviews completed in 2009/10

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

Recommendations:

That the report of the Performance and Finance sub-committee chair be noted.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

This report provides a summary of issues to be taken forward by the Performance and Finance scrutiny sub-committee following the meeting held on 20 September 2010.

The minutes of the meeting are available elsewhere on this agenda.

Issues identified for further consideration or monitoring

Council performance at Quarter 1 – 2010/11

Specific indicators highlighted for further monitoring were:

- NI 59 – initial assessments completed within 7 days of referral [NB the target is in the process of being increased to 10 days]
- NI 60 – core assessments for children’s social care that were carried out within 35 days of their commencement
- BV 8 – percentage of invoices paid on time
- NI 157a – processing of major planning applications
- BV 12 – proportion of working days lost to sickness absence
- BV16a – % employees declaring that they meet the DDA definition
- % managers entering budget into SAP.

Scrutiny recommendations monitoring

The sub-committee agreed to monitor the following reports:

- Standing review of the budget (2009/10)
- Sustainability review (2009/10) (with emphasis on unemployment)
- Delivering a strengthened voluntary sector (2008/09)

Details of all reports completed in 2009/10 are included as Appendix A for the information of Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Other issues highlighted for follow up by the sub-committee were:

- Implications of the Comprehensive Spending Review;
- Progression against in-year saving, containing the projected overspend for 2010-11 and addressing the £16-18m funding gap for 2011-12
- Implications of cuts to specific grants
- Changes to the performance management framework, including the future of National Indicators.

Agenda planning for the next meeting of the sub committee

A briefing for the chair and vice-chairman of the sub-committee has been set up for 27 October 2010 to consider how recent analysis of value for money could inform future agenda planning for the sub-committee.

It is proposed that a further chair’s briefing be set up to consider performance at Quarter 2 when it becomes available.

Financial Implications

There are none specific to this report.

Performance Issues

There are none specific to this report.

Environmental Impact

There are none specific to this report.

Risk Management Implications

There are none specific to this report.

Corporate Priorities

The work of the sub-committee addresses all of the Council's corporate priorities.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Not required for this report.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Heather Smith, Scrutiny Officer, 020 8420 9203,
heather.smith@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: None

Appendix A – Scrutiny reviews completed in 2009/10

Review	Agreed by Scrutiny	Considered by Cabinet	Review undertaken by	Assessment by scrutiny officer
Extended schools as community resources	April 2009	17 September 2009	Performance and Finance 25 March 2010	No further follow-up recommended. P&F received a progress report from the relevant officer and the committee was satisfied with progress made.
Housing Revenue Account	November 2009	14 January 2010 The work of scrutiny contributed to the council's response to a Communities and Local Government consultation on the future of the Housing Revenue Account.	N/A	No direct further follow up required with regard to the specific review. However, O&S is considering undertaking work on the new Housing Ambition Plan later in the Municipal Year. It is recommended that the SDE leads maintain a watching brief on potential changes to the HRA.
Integrated Care Organisation	January 2010	18 March 2010 (for information)	Health sub 2 September 2010	No direct further follow up required with regard to the specific review. The Health sub intends to keep a watching brief on this area.
Response to Acute Paediatric Services NHS consultation	February 2010	N/A	Health sub 2 September 2010	No direct further follow up required with regard to the specific review.

Review	Agreed by Scrutiny	Considered by Cabinet	Review undertaken by	Assessment by scrutiny officer
Response to East Harrow Polysystem NHS consultation	February 2010	N/A	Health sub 16 June 2010	Developments and proposals put forward by the previous Government in relation to health are to be re-assessed against new criteria. Most proposals that are already in motion are able to go ahead. The Health sub has asked to be kept informed of developments.
Standing review of the budget	January 2010	Received by Cabinet 11 February 2010, response report 23 June 2010	Not yet scheduled for review.	This report should be followed up either by P&F or by the new Standing Review of the Budget in the course of 2010/11.
Sustainability	February 2010	18 March 2010	Not yet scheduled for review.	This report should be followed up by P&F in the course of 2010/11.

Earlier work recommended for continued review

Delivering a strengthened voluntary and community sector	November 2008	Received by Cabinet 18 December 2008, response report 26 March 2009. Of the 22 review recommendations, 17 were agreed for immediate implementation and a further 4 as part of the Third Sector strategy. One recommendation, relating to Harrow Heroes, was not agreed. Third Sector Strategy was agreed by Cabinet 18 March 2010.	Performance and Finance 16 November 2009. Members requested a further progress report. Not yet scheduled for further review on 2010/11.	This report should be followed up by P&F in the course of 2010/11. This discussion should be informed by the previous P&F discussion (16-11-09 minute 144 refers).
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