

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

DATE: **Thursday 20 September 2012**

AGENDA - PART I

6. REFERENCES FROM COUNCIL/CABINET

- (a) Reference from Cabinet - 19 July 2012 - 'Refining Youth Engagement':
(Pages 1 - 4)

Amended response from Cabinet to the Scrutiny Review

11. STANDING REVIEW OF THE BUDGET - QUARTERLY REPORT (Pages 5 - 6)

Report of the Divisional Director of Partnership Development and Performance

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE – 12 SEPTEMBER 2012 – TERMS OF REFERENCE (Pages 7 - 10)

AGENDA - PART II

Nil

Note: In accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following agenda items have been admitted late to the agenda by virtue of the special circumstances and urgency detailed below:-

Agenda item

Special Circumstances/Grounds for Urgency

6a. Reference from Cabinet –

Members are requested to consider the

19 July 2012 – ‘Redefining Youth Engagement’

amended reference, as a matter of urgency, as Cabinet on 13 September amended the minute on this item.

11. Standing Review of the Budget – Quarterly Report

Members are requested to consider the revised recommendation, as a matter of urgency, as it was incomplete on the main agenda.

15. Any other business -
Recommendation from the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee –
12 September 2012 – Terms of Reference

Members are requested to consider this item as a matter of urgency so as not to delay progress of the proposed changes. This item was not available at the time the main agenda was printed and circulated due to the proximity of the meeting.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20 SEPTEMBER 2012**REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 19 JULY 2012****Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report 'Redefining Youth Engagement'**

Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Children and Families responding to the recommendation set out in the Scrutiny Review 'Redefining Youth Engagement'.

Cabinet welcomed key representatives of Harrow's Youth Parliament and invited them to address the meeting. In their presentation, representatives of the Youth Parliament thanked the Chairman and Members of the Scrutiny Review Group for their support and made the following points:

- young people were not a homogenous group;
- Councils and politicians had a key role to play in inspiring the next generation and making politics more relevant to teenagers;
- young people did not know what the Council did or how it related to them;
- young people wanted consistent conversations with feedback and a visible demonstration of follow up;
- young people wanted opportunities to genuinely influence debate and decision-making.

They added that in terms of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Group, recommendation 8, the Council should lead a major 'Youth Summit' with partners, politicians and local businesses as part of Harrow Youth Week which recognises and celebrates Harrow's young people and as part of the Council's ongoing Let's Talk programme and commitment to engage with people, provided a gateway to the other recommendations. They were of the view that the Council had a role to play in giving young people support and direction and in so doing the Council could learn from the youth and gain valuable insight to help plan ahead with service provision.

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Review Group addressed the meeting and outlined the desire of young people for change. She added that the implementation of the recommendations would not be a costly and it was important that the young people were celebrated with the report being used as a main vehicle for such a celebration and investment in the youth of the borough. She was concerned that the recommendations had not received a multi-partner response.

Representatives of Harrow Youth Parliament responded to various questions from the Portfolio Holders. They stated that their participation in the Scrutiny Review Group had expanded their knowledge of the way the Council worked but it was important that such knowledge was not concentrated amongst a few individuals. It was essential that the Council reached out to some 60,000 young people who lived in Harrow to make them aware of the Council's role in the community. In order to improve the job market for young people, the Council should look to re-introduce a Summer University Scheme which would also help improve skills. It was important to ensure that engagement activities were crucial 'progression routes' to employment because of the soft skills young people gain, which employers were

demanding. It was the links between engagement and progression routes to jobs that were the most important factors because what young people told the Review was that what they wanted most was: Council influence and a prospect of a job when they left school.

Portfolio Holders were invited to attend meetings of the Youth Parliament and their attention was drawn to recommendation 10 of the Review Group which looked for greater dialogue between the Council and young people.

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families assured the Youth Parliament that the recommendations would be taken forward in partnership with key stakeholders in order to ensure that the aspiration of young people were met.

An officer from the Children and Families Directorate congratulated the Youth Parliament for their participation in the Scrutiny Review Group and the numerous meetings and consultations that had been delivered on. He acknowledged the need for an established dialogue with the young people of Harrow and undertook to explore the potential which could involve the entire Council.

The Corporate Director Children and Families stated that the recommendations were challenging and had cost implications. However, she would work alongside Cabinet Members with a view to reviewing service provision for young people to ensure that served their purpose for the future. She supported the holding of a Youth Summit and would investigate the possibility of using the budget allocated to the Council's Transformation Programme.

The Leader of the Council thanked all participants of the Scrutiny Review Group for an excellent report and the ideas put forward. The Leader would discuss ways in which the recommendations could be taken forward by the Council and how various stakeholders could engage in the process. He acknowledged that the Council had not always succeeded in engaging with the young people but gave an assurance that the recommendations would be taken seriously and moved forward.

Representatives of the Youth Parliament stated that a key aspect of the debate had been about the costs associated with the recommendations. However, the recommendation should be seen in the context of an Invest to Save Strategy. It was acknowledged that Invest to Save and Early Intervention Strategies had a 3-year time lead and that savings were not always easy to quantify. The Portfolio Holder for Finance stated that he would be sympathetic to the use of the Transformation Programme money to help move the recommendations forward.

Cabinet applauded the contributions from the representatives of Harrow Youth Parliament.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Corporate Director Children and Families, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families, be authorised to develop and implement the response, in partnership with local schools and the Harrow Youth Parliament;
- (2) it be noted that the development and implementation of the response would include joint working with the Council's Grants Advisory Panel and contact with those local authorities referred to in the report, (such as Camden, Hammersmith and Fulham and Tower Hamlets), each offering different approaches to youth engagement;

- (3) it be noted that with the Council's focus on statutory and targeted work, significant decisions have previously been put into effect which had already removed many universal services for young people.

Reason for Decision: The Council's 'resident involvement' agenda aimed to change the culture of youth engagement and to establish stronger links with young people living and being educated in the borough. This would inevitably be a dynamic process, requiring the commitment of officers across all departments and Councillors alike, and would take time to embed.

The 'Youth Engagement' report had already become a key document underpinning the work of the Youth Development Team within Children and Families Service and was compatible with the priority actions of the Harrow Youth Parliament.

Bearing in mind the current operating model with the Children and Families Service and the ongoing pressure to achieve further short and medium term savings, it is important to note that additional resources would be required in order to fully consider the cost benefits to the Council and to find external funding sources and sponsorship.

FOR INFORMATION

Background Documents:

Report submitted to Cabinet - 19 July 2012

Draft minutes of the Cabinet – 19 July 2012

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REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date:	20 th September 2012
Subject:	Standing Review of the Budget – Quarterly Report
Responsible Officer:	Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director, Partnership Development and Performance
Scrutiny Lead Member area:	Cllr Jerry Miles, Policy Lead Member, Corporate Effectiveness Cllr Tony Ferrari, Performance Lead Member, Corporate Effectiveness
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	<i>None</i>

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report updates the Overview and Scrutiny committee on the work which has been undertaken by the Standing Scrutiny Review of the Budget

Recommendations:

Councillors are recommended to:

- i. Consider and comment on the work of the standing the review of the budget
- ii. Consider and comment on/approve the recommendations made in respect of the management of major contract renewal process

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING – 12 SEPTEMBER 2012

Terms of Reference

Following a discussion at the previous meeting of the Sub-Committee on 24 July 2012, the Sub-Committee considered and agreed an amended version of its Terms of Reference.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

That:

- (1) the Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference be revised as set out at appendix A to these Minutes; and
- (2) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee refer the revised Terms of Reference to the Constitution Review Working Group for consideration.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Background Documents:

Minutes of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee – 12 September 2012

Report to the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee – 12 September 2012

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APPENDIX A

PROPOSED REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

PERFORMANCE & FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Performance and Finance Sub-Committee has the following powers and duties:

1. To be the key driver of the scrutiny function's work programme and the body responsible for monitoring the performance of the council and partners in relation to their stated priorities;
2. To consider/monitor, on an exception basis, the financial and service performance of the organisation;
3. To consider/monitor the performance of the council's partners;
4. To undertake specific investigation of identified 'hot spots' through Q&A, reports or challenge panels – subject to endorsement by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
5. To refer 'hot spots' to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for more detailed investigation where necessary;
6. To consider such urgent items as are appropriate – ad hoc, Councillor Calls for Action, area scrutiny.

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