

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

CHAIRMAN'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (6.11.08)

1. At its meeting on 20 October 2008, the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel considered proposed targets for the Council's National Indicators and Local Performance Indicators for 2008/09, and performance against the indicators for the first quarter of the year. Consideration of these matters was deferred from the previous meeting, to allow for the compilation of additional detail in relation to the indicators, particularly in relation to expanded descriptions and explanations of the purpose of each indicator, and commentaries from the relevant director in support of the proposed target for the current year and actual first quarter performance.
2. The Scrutiny Panel will be considering second quarter performance against the Council's Key Performance Indicators for 2008/09 at its meeting on 11 November 2008. The Key Performance Indicators are crucial to the Council's core business and its corporate priorities, and comprise a mixture of statutory National Indicators and the newly adopted suite of Local Performance Indicators, a number of which are former Best Value Performance Indicators. The aim of the Key Performance Indicators is to focus improvement on key areas and achieve comparable performance with that of the top performing local authorities (where appropriate), and to then maintain or improve further on that level of performance. In adopting the Key Performance Indicators for 2008/09, the Cabinet set a target for at least 75% to achieve target performance by the end of the year. Performance reports in respect of the Key Performance Indicators and all other National and Local Performance Indicators have been deposited in the Members' Room.
3. Also at its meeting on 11 November 2008, the Scrutiny Panel will be considering the second quarter financial monitoring report, and details of the Council's proposed fees and charges for 2009/10. The Panel will also be reviewing the Capital programme for 2008/09, and outcomes arising from the completion of the first Local Area Agreement for Essex.
4. The Scrutiny Panel has established a sub-group to consider the Council's latest Value For Money Analysis Tool, and to make recommendations for further action to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Sub-Group comprises myself and Councillors Mohindra and Watts. A meeting of the Sub-Group to consider the Value For Money Analysis Tool was to have been held on 20 October 2008, although this was postponed at my requested in view of the special Cabinet meeting that also took place that evening. The Sub-Group will therefore now meet on 11 November 2008, when directors will make a brief presentation on recent performance and cost comparisons. At the request of the Scrutiny Panel, the Analysis Tool has been updated to reflect unaudited performance information for 2007/08.

Councillor Derek Jacobs

Chairman of the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel