

Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 17 July 2012



Subject: Finance And Performance Management Scrutiny Panel - Chairman's Report

Chairman: Councillor A. Lion

Recommendation:

To note and agree the amendments to the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Standing Panel's Terms of Reference.

1. This report summarises a number of matters considered by the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel, at its meeting on 19 June 2012, but specifically asks for agreement to the changes to its Terms of Reference.

Terms of Reference

2. The Scrutiny Panel reviewed its terms of reference for the current year, to ensure that they were up to date and accurately reflected the likely activities of the Panel in 2012/13.
3. In terms of its performance management role, we have suggested the removal of reference to 'statutory' performance indicators from our terms of reference, as all nationally applied indicators ceased from 31 March 2011. From its public consultation and engagement remit, the Scrutiny Panel has proposed the deletion of the requirement to develop proposals for an annual community conference. We consider that our role in this respect should be to develop arrangements to engage local communities in shaping responsive services when required, although it is accepted that this may in future require approaches such as a conference to be considered.
4. The Scrutiny Panel has also suggested the removal of the specific reference to the Council's web-casting system from its ICT related terms of reference, as it has responsibility for monitoring and reviewing progress on the implementation of all major ICT systems.
5. We do not consider that it is necessary to retain reference to Task and Finish Panels within our value for money terms of reference, and instead propose recommending as necessary to the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee, in respect of areas where detailed value for money work may be required.
6. We further suggest the removal of reference to Local Area Agreements from the Scrutiny Panel's terms of reference, as these formal joint working arrangements were abolished during 2010/11. In addition, we propose updating the Panel's equality related terms of reference to reflected the recent adoption of the Council's equality objectives for 2012/13 to 2015/16, and the cessation of requirements for the production of Race, Gender and Disability Equality Schemes.
7. Our recommended terms of reference for 2012/13 are attached, for the approval of the Committee.

Key Performance Indicators 2011/12

8. The Scrutiny Panel has considered outturn performance in relation to the Council's Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for 2011/12. The outturn position with regard to the achievement of target performance for the KPIs was:
 - 22 (66.6%) indicators achieved the performance target for 2011/12; and
 - 11 (33.3%) indicators did not achieve the performance target for 2011/12.
9. In reviewing the KPI outturn, we have recommended the deletion and revision of a number of KPI to the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee, together with the adoption of performance targets for individual KPIs for 2012/13, and the adoption of a corporate target of 70% for the achievement of improvement against the KPIs for the year.
10. As part of the KPI outturn review, the Scrutiny Panel also received a year-end monitoring report in respect of levels of sickness absence, and we were pleased to note that the target in this respect had been exceeded for 2011/12.

Equality

11. The Scrutiny Panel reviewed progress over the last year in relation to a range of equality requirements and initiatives, including the Council's response to the Public Sector Equality Duty and its adoption of a range of equality objectives for 2012/13 to 2015/16. We were pleased to note details of several successful engagement opportunities designed to increase understanding of equality issues and to inform the development of the equality objectives.

Consultation Plan 2012/13 and Register 2011/12

12. We have reviewed the Consultation Plan for 2012/13 setting out those issues on which public consultation is to be undertaken during the municipal year, and those consultation exercises completed during 2011/12.

Provisional Revenue and Capital Outturn 2011/12

13. The Scrutiny Panel has reviewed the overall 2011/12 revenue out-turn for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Accounts, and the provisional capital outturn for the year. We received details of the carry forward of District Development Fund expenditure and the requirement for retrospective approval for over and underspends in 2011/12 and the carry-forward of unspent capital estimates into 2012/13, and these matters will be considered further by the Cabinet.