

**Decisions of the Budget & Performance
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

3rd June 2010

Members

- *Councillor Darrel Yawitch (Chairman)
- * Councillor Mark Shooter (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

- * John Marshall
- * Hugh Rayner
- * Brian Salinger
- * Brian Schama
- Daniel Seal
- * Julie Johnson
- * Alison Moore
- * Alan Schneiderman

(* denotes member present)

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2010 be approved.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Daniel Seal.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (INCLUDING WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS)

There were no such declarations.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None

5. MEMBER'S ITEMS

Councillor Brian Salinger raised a Member's Item in respect of the Provisional Outturn 2009/10 report considered by the Cabinet Resources Committee on 22nd April 2010. The Committee agreed that officers would provide the requested information to Councillor Salinger, with the Committee receiving a report back at the next meeting if necessary.

RESOLVED:

That officers provide further information to Councillor Brian Salinger on the Provisional Outturn 2009/10.

6. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY 2010/11

The Sub-Committee considered the legal and constitutional scope of overview and scrutiny committees and noted the scrutiny arrangements in operation at the London Borough of Barnet, including the terms of reference of the overview and scrutiny committees and sub-committees.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the report be noted.**
- 2. That information on what constitutes "other partnership associations" in the terms of reference of the Committee be provided to Members.**

7. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE RESULTS FOR QUARTER FOUR 2009/10

The Committee received a report presenting progress against the Corporate Plan performance indicators for the final quarter of 2009/10.

The Committee was provided with the 66 of the 93 performance targets which had reported in quarter four, together with detail on where targets had not been met. The Committee noted that the setting of targets was a collaborative process, involving central government expectations, consideration of the previous year's performance and the involvement of the relevant Cabinet Member.

The Committee welcomed the reduction in the number of targets for 2010/11. Members scrutinised the performance across Council directorates with the relevant officers responding to questions.

Concerns were particularly raised over the numbers of children being placed in care in Barnet from other boroughs. Officers informed Members that they were working towards agreeing an inter-borough protocol on placements.

The Committee also noted customer services performance and noted efforts to improve performance by centralising customer service contact in one place and increasing the amount of web contact with residents. It was noted that performance figures may have been affected by 'direct dialling' to the phones of individual officers across the Council.

Members discussed recycling, noting that improving recycling levels, together with waste minimisation, was one of the major strategic challenges for the authority. The committee noted that a number of drivers informed a successful recycling rate, and that a round of refuse was routinely analysed to provide to ascertain how successful attempts to encourage recycling were. Work was being undertaken in a number of areas to further encourage recycling and waste minimisation.

In particular reference to the housing target around affordable homes, Members requested that in future where targets changed, the original target be included in the

report together with an explanation for the change.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Director of Corporate Services provide to the Committee a breakdown of back office support staff by department.
2. That officers provide the Committee with information as to where the customer hotline number 4600 is currently being directing to.
3. That the Committee be provided with the number of statutory (national) indicators.
4. That the Committee be provided with the original target for CPI 64, number of affordable homes delivered, and that reporting of performance information in the future contain details of targets which had changed during the course of the year.
5. That the performance information be noted.

8. CABINET FORWARD PLAN

Members stated that the Cabinet Forward Plan of Key Decisions would be enhanced were it to both include more detailed descriptions on items going forward, and for it to cover a period of time greater than four months.

RESOLVED –

1. That the committee note the Forward Plan of key decisions.

9. BUDGET & PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its work programme for 2010/11.

RESOLVED-

1. That the progress of the Committee's work programme in 2010/11 be noted.
2. That reports on Treasury Management and the Estate Management Strategy be brought forward to the next possible meeting.

10. ANY ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

The Chairman allowed the admittance of one item of Urgent Business. This was a

proposal for the Committee's future Scrutiny of Performance Information to contain more detailed focus on particular areas.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Committee at its September meeting receive detailed information on performance relating to rising referrals to children's social care, and household waste and recycling, in addition to a complete set of Performance Indicators.**
- 2. That the Committee be provided with the Places Analysis Tool by e-mail.**

The meeting concluded at 9:34 pm.