

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

27th January 2011

Members

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

Councillors:

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

(* denotes member present)

Also attending:

- Councillor Richard Cornelius Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning & Regeneration
- Councillor Robert Rams Cabinet Member for Customer Access & Partnerships
- Angela Purcell Barnet Homes Co-Optee (item 8 only)
- Angela Shine Barnet Homes Co-Optee (item 8 only)

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th December 2010 be approved.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Daniel Seal.

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

Member:	Subject:	Interest Declared:
Darrel Yawitch	Item 6 – Budget Consultation: the Voluntary Sector	Personal and non-prejudicial, as Councillor Yawitch is a Trustee at Edgware Jewish Primary School, a member of the Finance Committee of the UJIA. Councillor Yawitch remained

		in the room and took part in the discussions on this item.
Mark Shooter	Item 6 – Budget Consultation: the Voluntary Sector	Personal and non-prejudicial as Councillor Shooter is a patron of Kisharon, a member of Norwood, and CST. Councillor Shooter remained in the room and took part in the discussions on this item.
Brian Salinger	Item 6 – Budget Consultation: the Voluntary Sector	Personal and non-prejudicial as Councillor Brian Salinger is a shareholder in Homeless Action in Barnet and a member of the Jesus Hospital Charity and the Barnet Arts Centre. Councillor Salinger remained in the room and took part in the discussions on this item.
John Marshall	Item 6 – Budget Consultation: the Voluntary Sector	Personal and non-prejudicial as Councillor Marshall is a member of the Barnet Arts Centre. Councillor Marshall remained in the room and took part in the discussions on this item.
Alison Moore	Item 6 – Budget Consultation: the Voluntary Sector	Personal and non-prejudicial as Councillor Moore is a member of the board of the Phoenix Cinema. Councillor Moore remained in the room and took part in the discussions on this item.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

5. MEMBER'S ITEMS

There were no such items.

6. BUDGET CONSULTATION: THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Ruth Mulandi of CommUNITY Barnet, and Bev Jacobson of Kisharon gave evidence to the Committee on the impact of the budget on the voluntary sector.

Upon answering questions from Members, the Committee thanked the two members of the voluntary sector for their evidence and made the following comments:

- The Committee noted the full role played by the voluntary sector in the borough, and recognised the risk to the Council should any major charities fail. The Committee suggests that this be included on the Corporate Risk Register.

- The Committee suggests that engagement take place with service users during implementation of budget proposals to ensure awareness
- That any cost differential between the in-house and voluntary sector provision of services be considered
- That, in realising that much voluntary sector funding is discretionary, it be noted that the cut in voluntary sector funding is 33%, compared with a 17% in the overall Adult Social Services budget.
- That consideration be given to the prioritisation of elements of voluntary sector funding to key areas rather than a blanket 33% reduction.
- That the Voluntary Sector be engaged on ideas of invest to save proposals, particularly around business development
- That consideration is given to any impact of placing the burden of administering care packages on service users in proposals relating to personalisation and direct payments, and that communication on amendments to individual care packages be appropriately handled.
- That consideration be given to any refunded London Councils grant monies being used with the voluntary sector around invest to save initiatives
- That the financial impact and long-term budgetary consequences be adequately considered.

RESOLVED:

1. **That the comments of the Committee be forwarded to the Cabinet.**

7. BARNET HOMES QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The Committee received the Quarter 2 Performance Information for Barnet Homes.

The Committee requested that a moving annual target be incorporated into future Performance reports, together with actions taken against targets which had not been met.

Members were assured that work was ongoing to speed up relets, with the Committee commenting that the target of 49 days was somewhat high. The Cabinet Member agreed with Members of the Committee that he would investigate the possibility of bringing this figure down to 28 days. The Committee suggested that relet time could be reduced through encouraging leaving tenants to give sufficient notice prior to vacating the properties. Following discussion of issues with the previous contractor, Members were informed that regular monitoring meetings took place with the current contractor. The Committee noted strong performance in a number of other areas, with no performance indicators reporting 'red' in the quarter.

RESOLVED –

- 1. The Committee suggest that the end of year target for Relet Time (average time it takes to relet an empty property) be revised from 49 to 28 days.**
- 2. The Committee suggest that future Barnet Homes performance reports include:**
 - An annual moving target**
 - Actions taken to combat missed targets**

8. ONE BARNET FORWARD PLAN PRINCIPLES

The Committee received a presentation from officers outlining the proposed approach for developing a Corporate Plan which would be shared with partners. The Committee noted that 'Year One' of the joint plan incorporated the priorities of the Council's key partners; work would be ongoing for future years to align these cohesively. Discussions were also ongoing around a cohesive performance management structure.

The Committee was supportive of the inclusion of Middlesex University in the Plan and requested that necessary regard be given as work progressed to ensuring that future governance arrangements were transparent.

RESOLVED-

- 1. That the necessary consideration be given to transparency of decision-making when formulating partnership governance arrangements.**
- 2. That the Committee receive further opportunities to comment as the One Barnet Forward Plan is formulated.**

9. CABINET FORWARD PLAN

The Committee noted the Cabinet Forward Plan.

RESOLVED-

- 1. That the Cabinet Forward Plan of Key Decisions be noted.**

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

The Committee agreed their forward work programme, and agreed to receive a report on

Cashless Operations at their meeting of 5th April 2011.

RESOLVED-

- 1. That the Committee receive a report on Cashless Operations at their meeting of 5th April 2011.**

10. ANY ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were no such items.

The meeting concluded at 9:52pm.