

AGENDA ITEM: 6

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Meeting	Budget and Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date	27 th January 2011
Subject	Budget Consultation: the Voluntary Sector
Report of	Scrutiny office
Summary	Ruth Mulandi of CommUNITY Barnet and Beverley Jacobson of Kisharon will give evidence to the Committee on the impact of the Council's budget on the voluntary sector.

Officer Contributors	Jeremy Williams, Scrutiny office
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Status (public or exempt)	Public
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Wards Affected	All
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Enclosures	None
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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Committee note the evidence given by the Voluntary Sector and make comments and recommendations to Cabinet as appropriate.

1.2 That the Committee make any other further recommendations to Cabinet in respect of the Budget proposals.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees/Sub-Committees must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.

2.2 The three priority outcomes set out in the 2010-2013 Corporate Plan are:

- **Better services with less money**
- **Sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities**
- **A successful London suburb**

2.3 The following are strategic objectives and performance targets that fall within the remit of the Corporate Governance Directorate and relate to Overview and Scrutiny:

- **Improve council policy and decision making through greater involvement by non-executive members**
- **To improve the effectiveness and transparency of decision-making within the council by ensuring that Overview and Scrutiny in the year 2010/11:**
 - **Considers three decisions prior to being taken by Cabinet; and**
 - **Initiates three items of policy development.**

3. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

3.1 Budget and Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee, December 20th 2010, Agenda item 6, 'Financial and Business Planning 2011/12 – 2013/14'

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

4.1 None in the context of the report.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

5.1 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the role of the Committee is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to:

- The Council's leadership role in relation to diversity and inclusiveness; and
- The fulfilment of the Council's duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 This report is concerned with the scrutiny of the impact of the Councils budget proposals on the voluntary sector.
- 6.2 The Council is consulting on savings totalling £54m over 3 years in response to the spending review. Some savings are proposed in respect of funding for the voluntary sector, although these were reduced by £0.9m following initial consultation. The overall context of the budget process is that significant savings need to be made across all Council services and service providers.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 None save those contained within the body of the report.

8 CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 8.1 The scope of Scrutiny committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the constitution; the Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Committees are in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the constitution).
- 8.2 Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rule 19 (c) allows an Overview & Scrutiny Committee, when conducting investigations, to ask people to attend to give evidence at Committee meetings which are to be conducted in accordance with the following principles:
- that the investigation be conducted fairly and all member of the committee be given the opportunity to ask questions of attendees, and to contribute and speak;
 - that those assisting the committee by giving evidence be treated with respect and courtesy; and
 - that the investigation be conducted so as to maximise the efficiency of the investigation or analysis.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 At its meeting of December 20th 2010, the Budget and Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed to invite representatives of the Voluntary Sector to address the Committee as part of its consultation on the budget.

9.2 Ruth Mulandi, CEO of CommUNITY Barnet, and Beverley Jacobson of Kisharon, will give evidence to the Committee on the impact of the budget proposals on the voluntary sector.

9.3 The Committee can make recommendations to the Executive in respect of the budget proposals to be considered alongside its decision on the Budget, Council Tax and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/12 to 2013/14 at its meeting of February 14th 2011.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None