

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

22nd February 2011

Members

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

Councillors:

* John Marshall	* Alison Moore
* Hugh Rayner	* Julie Johnson
* Brian Salinger	* Alan Schneiderman
* Brian Schama	
* Rowan Turner (substituting for Daniel Seal)	

(* denotes member present)

Also attending:

Councillor Andrew Harper
Councillor Daniel Thomas

Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Families
Cabinet Member for Resources & Performance

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2011 be approved.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Shooter, and from Councillor Daniel Seal, who was substituted for by Councillor Rowan Turner.

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

None.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

5. MEMBER'S ITEMS

There were no such items.

6. THE ATTAINMENT GAPS BETWEEN CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND THEIR PEERS, AND CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND THEIR PEERS

The Committee were informed of the work that had been undertaken to narrow attainment gaps between children with special education needs and their peers, and children eligible for free school meals and their peers, together with information on how the gaps had narrowed. The Cabinet Member also outlined to the Committee future work which would be carried out to further reduce attainment gaps.

The authority was performing well in relation to attainment gaps, but the Committee acknowledged that there was still further work to be undertaken on this topic. The Committee noted that the number of children with complex needs was rising; this was likely due to a number of factors including an increase in identifying children in the autistic spectrum, and greater survival rates amongst young children. The Cabinet Member assured the Committee that the authority would continue to use the Free School Meals data measurement, whilst also investigating other tools to quantify disadvantage.

The Committee noted that the year-on-year data could in some cases appear distorted, dependent as it was on the ability of non-Free School Meals children in that particular year. However, Free School Meals was still regarded as a valuable data set, and the authority would continue to collect it.

The Committee also supported the role of a support infrastructure to work with families, particularly through employed and volunteer family support workers, and noted the valuable work undertaken by nurture groups.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the Committee suggest that information on the implementation of new spend around early intervention be reported to a future meeting of the Children's Service Overview & Scrutiny sub-Committee.

(2) That officers investigate other forms of data measurement in addition to using children eligible for free school meals, to ensure full and accurate information around attainment gaps.

7. VALUE FOR MONEY MONITORING

The Committee received a report setting out how the authority monitored Value for Money. Members noted that work was being undertaken towards a new performance framework for Value for Money, which the Committee indicated its wish to scrutinise at a future date.

The Committee:

- noted the importance of the use of indicators, but understood the limits of using comparable data due to the considerable variables between comparators
- suggested that the private sector should be used as a comparator in instances where this could easily be done
- supported the continued usage of the Capital Ambition data set for benchmarking and comparison
- supported the creation of bespoke performance measures for Barnet
- suggested that further work include an exercise to measure value for money of procurement in Barnet
- suggested that Directorates be encouraged to identify their three most important Value for Money indicators

RESOLVED –

- 1. That a Value for Money performance framework come before a future meeting of the Committee for consideration.**

8. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE RESULTS FOR QUARTER THREE 2010/11

The Committee received the corporate performance results for Quarter Three. 59% of reported indicators had been met, with 41% missed. The Committee requested additional information around trade waste recycling, and performance of registrars

The Committee agreed to receive in depth reports on the following performance areas in quarter four:

- Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation/intermediate care (CPI 2)
- Resident satisfaction with opportunities for democratic engagement (CPI 16)
- Waste and Recycling (CPI 19)

Members requested that the report on resident satisfaction with opportunities for democratic engagement include data from the current residents' survey.

RESOLVED-

- 1. That the Committee receive in depth reports on the above topics when reporting Quarter 4 data.**

9. CABINET FORWARD PLAN

The Committee noted the Cabinet Forward Plan and agreed to request to pre-Scrutinise the report on the Future of the Parking Service due to be considered by the Cabinet Resources Committee on 21st April 2011.

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 to receive reports on the following items at their meeting of 5th April 2011:

- Future of the Parking Service (pre-decision Scrutiny)
- Quarter 3 Monitoring Report
- Cashless Operations

RESOLVED-

- 1. That the Committee receive the above items at their meeting of 5th April 2011.**

11. ANY ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were no such items.

The meeting concluded at 9:30pm.