

DECISIONS OF THE BUDGET & PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 December 2011

Present:

*Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman)
*Councillor Joan Scannell (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

* Brian Gordon	* Hugh Rayner
* John Marshall	* Brian Schama
* Alison Moore	* Alan Schneiderman
* Alex Brodtkin	* Andrew Strongolou

*denotes Member present

Also in attendance:

Councillor Richard Cornelius – Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew Harper – Cabinet Member for Education, Children's and Families
Councillor Sachin Rajput – Cabinet Member for Adults
Councillor Robert Rams – Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships

1. **MINUTES (Agenda Item 1):**

The Chairman invited committee members to review the collated list of questions and answers provided by officers at the Budget and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of the 10 November 2011 relating to Business Planning 2012/13 to 2014/15. The Chairman asked the committee to submit any other comments or recommendations other than those already noted in the decisions of 10th November meeting. There were none.

The committee were informed that outstanding responses in relation to Environment, Planning, and Regeneration would be submitted to committee members as soon as possible.

RESOLVED that –

- 1. The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2011 be approved.**
- 2. The questions and responses, along with the decisions of the 10 November 2011 meeting, be used in the collation of a report to Cabinet detailing scrutiny representations on the budget proposals.**

2. **ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (Agenda Item 2):**

There were no absentees

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 3):

Member:	Subject:	Interest Declared:
Councillor Andrew Strongolou	Agenda Item 9 (One Barnet Development and Regulatory Services)	Personal but non-prejudicial interest as the Assistant Cabinet Member for Regeneration

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Agenda Item 4):

None.

5. MEMBERS' ITEMS (Agenda Item 5):

Prior to addressing Item 5 a motion was passed by the Committee that Item 11 – One Barnet Highlight Report be moved up the agenda to follow Item 5 due to the complimenting nature of the items.

The Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships presented a report in response to a Member's Item requesting a full and up-to-date breakdown of the costs and savings for the One Barnet Programme.

The committee sought clarification as to whether the figures presented in the report where a reflection of the current status of expenditure and savings. The committee was informed that the report was an accurate reflection of the costs and savings at the time of collation, but that the report should be viewed as being part of an iterative process that would in the future be informed by reports and updates to Cabinet.

The committee was informed of the total spend to date and the expected spend on the One Barnet programme. The committee was informed that the total budget for the programme is £9.2m and that the current monitoring position suggests that spend will remain on budget.

Officers agreed to a request from Councillor Schneiderman that a clearer presentation of the costs and savings be circulated to committee members.

RESOLVED that –

- 1. A clearer presentation of the costs and savings be circulated to committee members.**

6. ONE BARNET PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHT REPORT (Agenda Item 11):

The committee was presented with a report of the Deputy Chief Executive providing a summary of the programme status of the One Barnet Programme for the period of 22nd September to 14th November 2011 by the Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships.

Councillors noted a variance in the figures presented in the Highlight Report and those contained within the figures submitted within the Members' Item. The committee was informed that the variance was due to table 1, pg 57, of the highlight report reflecting

indicative spend as at October 2011 and not spending for the entire year or life cycle of the programme.

In relation to the development of the proposed Local Area Trading Company (LATC) committee members emphasised the importance of ensuring that the council would be represented on the board of the LATC.

With regard to the ongoing work of the Customer Service Transformation Programme the committee was informed that there was detailed work being undertaken that required focussed management. This work included consolidation of customer access points to improve efficiencies.

RESOLVED that –

1. That the One Barnet Programme Highlight report be noted.

7. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE RESULTS 2011/12 – QUARTER 2 (Agenda Item 6):

The committee was presented with a report detailing progress against the Corporate Plan performance targets and improvement initiatives for quarter two 2011/12.

The Chairman noted that committee members had been asked to identify areas of the performance report that they wished to scrutinise in detail in advance of the meeting to allow relevant Cabinet Members to prepare and present answers to the committee. Though members had not done so on this occasion the Chairman encouraged them to do so in future in order to facilitate effective scrutiny of quarterly performance reports. The Leader of the Council presented the report to the committee highlighting some of the most successful CPIs of the quarter including positive results relating to schools with good or outstanding overall effectiveness.

The committee questioned how some of the performance indicators were set as members felt that some indicators such as CPI No 6014 *Reducing the mortality rate from all cardiovascular disease per 100,000 people aged under 75 years* were beyond the capacity of the council to seriously influence, while other indicators such as CPI No 1001 *percentage of new homes granted planning permission on major applications required to meet level 4 for the code for sustainable homes* were also very ambitious.

In response to the committee's questioning of the Children's Services CPIs regarding the number of children who are subject to repeat child protection plans, the Cabinet Member for Education, Children's and Families advised that he would circulate to members of the committee a report previously submitted to the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee detailing the council's performance against the indicator *Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan for a Second or Subsequent Time*.

The committee questioned the CPI No 7004 *percentage of 50 largest vendors under formal contract* being set at 80 per cent, in response officers stated that this was the agreed performance indicator. The Deputy Chief Executive advised the committee that the council was working towards 100 per cent. In addition the committee was informed that a review of the council's procurement controls and a monitoring action plan was due to be submitted to the Audit Committee meeting of the 8th December.

In relation to CPI No 2003 *reduce the average number of absence days per employee per year to 6* the committee was informed that a report was being prepared on this issue with HR which could be shared with the committee.

The committee questioned the council's performance in relation to CPI No 5011 *percentage of young people not in education, employment or training* (NEET). Children's service officers responded that the council is working with training providers to improve this figure.

RESOLVED that –

1. **The Cabinet Member for Education, Children's and Families to circulate the report *Understanding and Addressing the Rise in the Number of Repeat Child Protection Plan Cases* to members of the committee.**
2. **That the Committee receive in-depth reports to be presented to the meeting scheduled for 7 March 2012 relating to:**
 - **Percentage proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) maintained (Children's Service - CPI 5011).**
 - **Number of new dwellings started on the regeneration estates (Environment, Planning and Regeneration – CPI 1003).**

8. WASTE AND RECYCLING PERFORMANCE (Agenda Item 7)

The Leader of the Council presented a report detailing Barnet Council's performance in terms of the amount of household waste sent for disposal and the percentage of household waste recycled, composted or reused.

The committee received guidance relating to the frequency of regular waste and recycling collections with an update provided to the committee regarding the ongoing work of the council and IMPOWER on the "Improving Recycling" project. The committee was informed that a full project report will be presented to the committee on completion.

The committee commented on how the practicalities of residents built environment could impact on their capacity to engage with recycling initiatives, such as a lack of space within properties to store three waste bins.

The committee was informed that the council's existing compulsory recycling policy relates to houses but not flats as it would not be possible to identify any individual property as not participating in recycling services. In relation to contacting the managing agents and residents of flats to encourage participation in recycling the committee requested that officers forward on the details of addresses whose residents had not yet been successfully contacted to ward members so that they might assist in contacting residents.

RESOLVED that –

1. **The waste and recycling performance report be noted.**
2. **The ongoing work of the council and IMPOWER on the 'Improving Recycling' project be noted.**
3. **The final project report will be presented to the Committee on completion.**

In relation to contacting the managing agents and residents of flats to encourage participation in recycling the committee requested that officers forward on the details of addresses (of flats whose occupants had thus far not been possible to contact) to ward members so that they might assist in contacting residents.

9. SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT AND PERSONAL BUDGETS (Agenda Item 8)

The Cabinet Member for Adult Services presented a report detailing the progress that Adult Social Care and Health are making in relation to the achievement of the stretching corporate plan target for the number of people with a personal budget for 2011/12 and the personalisation agenda.

The Cabinet Member highlighted the target of 4,250 clients in receipt of Personal Budgets stating that although ambitious the target is consistent with Barnet Council's desire to remain at the forefront of personalisation. The committee was informed that the Quarter Two performance of 2,441 Personal Budgets is equivalent to 43.97 per cent of community based clients, compared with a London average of 37.7 per cent. The Cabinet Member stated that the latest (October) figure is 2,638 Personal Budgets and that although the quarterly targets have not been met, the direction of travel is positive.

The committee sought and received reassurance from the Cabinet Member that appropriate safeguarding and support mechanisms were in place to support the transition of recipients to Personal Budgets.

RESOLVED that –

1. The Self Directed Support and Personal Budgets report be noted.

10. ONE BARNET – DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY SERVICES (Agenda Item 9)

The leader of the Council presented the committee with a report outlining the Development and Regulatory Services Project business case update and recommended shortlist for dialogue two and invited the committee to make comments and recommendations on the report to be brought forward to Cabinet Resources Committee as members viewed appropriate.

The committee enquired as to whether a shared services model was considered for the future delivery of the services and was informed that there were not, at this point in time, other local authorities in a position to consider entering into such an arrangement with Barnet Council.

The committee received assurances that the shortlisted bidders for stage two of competitive dialogue had undergone a robust vetting process.

In relation to the relocation of staff outside the borough it was noted that council employees do not live exclusively within the borough and that no significant relocation had been identified at this stage.

RESOLVED that –

- 1. The One Barnet – Development and Regulatory Services report be noted.**

11. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that –

Under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended by the Local government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Order 2006):

Agenda Item	Subject
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Item 9	Exempt information relating to item 9 in public session - Development and Regulatory Services Project Evaluation and Short-listing report
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Item 10	Exempt information relating to item 10 in public session – Award of Contract – Parking Enforcement and Related Services
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12. EXEMPT INFORMATION RELATING TO ITEM 9 IN PUBLIC SESSION – DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY SERVICES PROJECT EVALUATION AND SHORT-LISTING REPORT (Report of the Leader of the Council – Annex Three)

RESOLVED that –

- 1. The exempt information be noted.**

13. EXEMPT INFORMATION RELATING TO ITEM 10 IN PUBLIC SESSION – EXEMPT INFORMATION RELATING TO ITEM 10 IN PUBLIC SESSION – AWARD OF CONTRACT – PARKING ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED SERVICES – (Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment – Appendix X1)

RESOLVED that –

- 1. The exempt information be noted.**

In relation to communications received by committee members regarding issues raised by an interested party in the award of contract, that the committee be informed of the outcome of an investigation by the Director of Corporate Governance into the issues raised.

14. AWARD OF CONTRACT – PARKING ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED SERVICES (Agenda Item 10)

The Leader of the Council presented reports prepared for Cabinet Resources Committee recommending the award of the parking enforcement and related services to NSL Ltd for a period of five years with an option to extend.

The committee sought clarification regarding what would be viewed as a measure of success for parking services – income or compliance. The committee was informed that the overall measure of success for parking enforcement and related services would be a reduction of the cost in providing these services.

The committee was informed that the council will continue to meet all of its statutory and contractual obligations in regard to change and its impact upon staff. The committee was also informed that trade unions had been engaged throughout the process.

RESOLVED that –

- 1. The Committee notes the report.**

15. CABINET FORWARD PLAN (Agenda Item 12)

RESOLVED that –

- 1. The Cabinet Forward Plan for the period November 2011 to February 2012 be noted**

16. BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Agenda Item 13)

RESOLVED that –

- 1. The Budget and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme be noted.**

17. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (Agenda Item 14)

None.

The meeting finished at 9.50pm