

MEETING

BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE AND TIME

WEDNESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2012

AT 7.00 PM

VENUE

HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, NW4 4BG

Item No	Title	Pages
4.	Public Questions	1 - 4

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Agenda Item 4 – Public Question Time

Note

The time allowed for questions shall be limited to 30 minutes or a maximum of 20 questions, whichever occurs first.

Any questions not answered at the meeting will be responded to in writing within 10 working days.

The questioner at the meeting may ask one supplementary question to the original question, which will be answered without discussion.

Item 6 – Sport and Physical Activity Review Strategic Outline Case

1. **Mr John Dix**

Given that cabinet approved the commencement of this review exactly one year ago and that it has cost £74,000 so far, why has so little been achieved at such high cost?

2. **Mr John Dix**

Are councillors embarrassed that the Council is considering an option to “Exit from sports and physical activity provision, including divestment of leisure centres” only weeks after the end of the Olympic games?

3. **Mr John Dix**

Is the £198,000 budget to complete the study an ambitious target or an optimistic aspiration and what step will this committee take to pin down the officers to a fixed maximum budget?

4. **Ms Reema Patel**

What budget the Council will now be making available to secure a sporting and physical fitness legacy for individuals in the borough in light of the Olympics and Paralympics Games success, and in particular, whether the Council will be making available a budget to support and encourage physical fitness and engagement in sport for those who are disabled?

Item 8 – Members’ Item – Development and Regulatory Services Project

5. Ms Ruth Kutner

Reference para.3.3, what is the intended nature of the "new relationship with citizens" and how will it differ from the existing relationship? For instance, will it allow more responsive democracy by, e.g. reinstating the right of residents to ask questions on any topic in Residents' Forums, or will it allow even less responsive democracy by e.g. being unable to deal with residents' queries and complaints because they will have no direct connection with the ultimate service providers?

6. Ms Barbara Jacobsen

In relation to paragraph 3.4, how will One Barnet’s aim of a ‘relentless drive for efficiency’ be monitored effectively when the outsourced contracts are sub- and sub-sub-contracted, and what safeguards will exist to protect Council taxpayers if the contractors at any level or remove fail to deliver the efficiency and cost-saving estimated?

7. Ms Barbara Jacobsen

In relation to paragraph 9.1.1, will the Committee confirm that any decision to form a joint venture company as a delivery vehicle for the DRS contract will be published and publicised so that it is accessible to all Barnet residents in good time before the decision is implemented, with the essential details of who will be on the board of such a company, what remuneration they will receive, and how it will affect their position as councillors, including whether it has the potential to produce conflict of interest?

8. Ms Barbara Jacobsen

In relation to paragraph 9.1.2, will the Committee confirm that any decision to utilise joint venture companies within the overall OBP will be published and publicised so that it is accessible to all Barnet residents in good time before the decision is implemented, with the essential details of the composition of those companies, their relationship to the Council, and how their work will be monitored and controlled?

9. Mr Julian Silverman

In view of your declared aims of transparency and forging a new relationship with citizens, could you explain to the lay public in simple terms what are the possible relative advantages/disadvantages to the council, to the citizens of Barnet and to the companies concerned of outright privatisation, private/public partnerships of various kinds, outsourcing, 'insourcing' and joint venture companies? And what sort of a joint venture company would it be - a limited company a plc or what? Who would bear the major part of the risk and who the rewards?

Is it possible to put a cash figure to such estimates in each case? If not, will the relevant information be available to all of us before you sign up on our behalf, so that citizens can play an informed and responsible part in the decision process?

10. **Ms Reema Patel**

How will the Council meet its legal duty to consult with, and to listen to a wide cross-section of residents' representation from across the borough when it makes a decision on the model for the One Barnet 'transformation' programme? One of the concerns about the DRS wing of the project is that inadequate consultation has been made with residents to meet the procedural fairness requirement of the decision. It would be good to know how the Council are going to meet this requirement when it finally makes a decision on the One Barnet DRS model.

11. **Ms Reema Patel**

The business case that was presented to the public for One Barnet was over 160 pages long and almost exclusively focused on a strategic partnership relationship between the Council and a commissioned partner. A joint venture is mentioned only once in a single paragraph of the business case. Why, at this late stage in dialogue with bidders, is there no similar thought-through business case for the current preferred option for One Barnet which is now a joint venture?

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