
MEETING	EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND ADVISORY PANEL
DATE	9 SEPTEMBER 2008
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS HEALEY (CHAIR OF ADVISORY PANEL), JAMIESON-BALL (EXECUTIVE MEMBER), MOORE, PIERCE AND GUNNELL

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda.

No interests were declared.

15. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Member for Corporate Services and Advisory Panel held on 10 June 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair and Executive Member as a correct record.

16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

17. FORWARD PLAN UPDATE

Members received an update on the Resources Directorate items currently listed on the Forward Plan.

Members queried why the item on Accounts Submitted for Write-off, previously scheduled for the current meeting, appeared to have been removed from the Forward Plan. Officers confirmed that it was intended to bring this item to the next meeting, on 21 October 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Forward Plan items be noted and that the Plan be updated to include the Accounts Submitted for Write-off item.¹

REASON: For information.

Action Required

1. Update Forward Plan

SA

18. RESOURCES FIRST PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE MONITOR

Members considered a report which provided an update on current in-year progress on the identified aims and key financial and performance indicators for the Resources department, and sought approval for certain adjustments to the Resources capital programme. Officers indicated that, subject to Members' views, it was intended to make future monitoring reports shorter and more focused.

The report summarised the financial position of the department by service plan area. A net underspend of £113k was forecast, compared to a budget of £6,483k. This was due mainly to savings identified within the Information Technology and Telecommunications (ITT) area, resulting from efficiency improvements and the cancellation of funded projects. A forecast overspend of £188k in Property Services was a concern, but similar projections in previous years had been resolved by the year's end. With regard to performance, achievements highlighted included a continuing improvement in the processing times for benefits claims and in call handling statistics

Details of the 2008/09 capital programme were set out in Annex 4 to the report. An underspend of £12,239k was projected against the approved capital programme of £18,773k, due mainly to the delay on the Hungate project caused by withdrawal of the planning application. Member approval was sought for slippage of this sum.

During their discussions, Members welcomed what was a generally positive report, particularly with regard to developments in the York Call Centre. They queried and commented on a number of points of detail in the report and the Service Plan at Annex 1, highlighting in particular:

- The recent departmental re-structures and staff changes that had led to difficulties with some projects and problems in collating information;
- The need for the re-structured Revenues and Benefits team to continue promoting new benefits to customers;
- Concerns regarding the continuing vacancies in Property Services and the cost of hiring consultants and agency staff to cover these;
- Concerns about the declining performance in relation to payment of invoices (BVPI 8) (Officers confirmed that the introduction of a 'paperless' FMS system next April was expected to correct this);
- Whether the closure of accounts within statutory timescales should be included in the list of Financial Services' achievements;

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised to:

- (i) Note the current financial situation.
- (ii) Note the performance and achievements set out in the report, and the comments made by Members thereon.

- (iii) Approve the slippage of £12,239k on the capital programme, as set out in paragraph 83 and Annex 4, subject to the approval of the Executive.¹

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: In accordance with the Council's budgetary and performance monitoring procedures.

Action Required

1. Adjust the budget on the ledger (subject to Executive approval) SA

19. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Through the Chair, Members welcomed Ian Floyd, the new Director of Resources, and Pauline Stuchfield, the new Head of Audit and Risk Management, and extended their thanks to Sian Hansom, the outgoing Head of Finance, for her work in this post.

P Healey, Chair of Advisory Panel

C Jamieson-Ball, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.40 pm].