

Recommendations from Panels to Management Board

Support Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Item referred by O & S Management Board – role profiles

1 October 2009 - Minute 18 (iv)

Members were informed that the indicator on role profiles showed as “amber” but officers were confident that it would be completed by the target date of December 2009.

Item referred by O & S Management Board – community engagement with the budget

29 October 2009 - Minute 29

In respect of community engagement with the budget setting process, the Head of Performance, Policy and Partnerships informed the panel that there were various activities underway including presentations to Area Committees and a three day event in Drakes Circus Shopping Centre. The event would take place in November and would involve members of the Senior Management Team talking with members of the public and gathering their views on the Council Priorities. It was estimated that officers could speak to around 400 people over the 3 day period.

Members raised questions in relation to the advertisement of the event.

The Head of Performance, Policy and Partnerships advised that the purpose of the placing the stand in the Shopping Centre was to tap into its existing footfall and so advertising was not necessary.

Resolved to –

- (1) endorse the principle of this year’s planned activities;
- (2) request that the Head of Performance, Policy and Partnerships report back to the panel as soon as practicable to brief members on the outcome of the activities.

Item referred by O & S Management Board – provision of scrutiny resource

29 October 2009 - Minute 33

The Head of Performance, Policy and Partnerships advised members that in relation to the existing provision of scrutiny resource –

- (i) scrutiny resources – which would be covered in this meeting;

- (ii) there had recently been confirmation of lead officers for all scrutiny panels;
- (iii) scrutiny would form the basis for a large part of the personal objectives for the lead officers;
- (iv) scrutiny resource did not include only Democratic Services, but officers from within departments and partner organisations also;
- (v) panels should strive to ensure that their work programmes were in line with the work and priorities of the Council;
- (vi) the Local Strategic Partnership –
 - was bidding for a reward grant;
 - if the bid was successful, there was some potential for scrutiny to request some of the money for more resource;
 - at this stage it was not known for certain if this was possible, or how much might be available.

Members questioned the Head of Performance, Policy and Partnerships in relation to –

- (vii) the reward grant;
- (viii) overview and scrutiny panels' existing work programmes;
- (ix) the existing resource for scrutiny in terms of staffing within the Council.

Resolved that a working group undertake to look into –

- (1) the current resource provision;
- (2) the content of panels' work programmes, including details around whether items were statutory considerations or not.