



Minutes of the meeting of the PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND AUDIT PANEL held on THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2006 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillor K Wilson (Chair)
Councillors Barry, Burke, Carstens, Long, Monk and Williams

Officers: J Boothroyde (Overview and Scrutiny Manager), H Parker (Partnership Delivery Manager), I Procter (Head of Finance), S Hanson (Partnership Director) and S Parker (Senior Committee Manager)

Also Present: Councillor Crooks

PR49 MINUTES

The Panel considered the Minutes of the meetings held on 8 March 2006. The Chair thanked Councillor Carstens for chairing the meetings in his unavoidable absence.

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Panel held on 8 March 2006, be approved and signed by the Chair as correct records.

PR50 REVIEW OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Further to Minute PR31, the Panel received a presentation from S Hanson (Partnership Director) and H Parker (Partnership Delivery Manager), which provided an update on the progress against the Joint Action Plan following the KPMG Key Performance Indicators review, and outlined the action taken, or agreed to be taken, as a result of the KPMG report recommendations.

Comments from Members included the following:

- The need to have the correct key performance indicators in place.
- The need for the Partnership to be a success
- The mechanism for addressing any significant failures in agreement between the Parties.

- The need to be assured that HBS was committed to providing the required efficiency savings as part of the contract.
- A lack of confidence that any issues identified in October 2005 for attention had been satisfactorily addressed.

The Panel noted the following:

- The clear mechanism for escalation to arbitration if there was a lack of agreement between the Parties.
- The need for changes to Service Level Agreements as the contract progressed.
- The minimum savings guarantees in place as part of the contract.
- The three major key deliveries set by the Finance Manager for HBS, which had all been met:
 - improvement in budget monitoring;
 - deliver a Quality Assured Budget; and
 - the closing of accounts by the end of December without qualification.
- The Price Performance Mechanism was still to be renegotiated.
- The contribution of the recently appointed Services Delivery Manager in securing and stabilising the service.
- The problem in recruiting good qualified corporate accountants.

PR51 WORKING GROUP ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Panel received a report from Councillors Barry and Monk on their working group on anti-social behaviour, for which the Chair thanked them.

RESOLVED -

1. That the report be noted.
2. That Councillors Barry and Monk be invited to consider making recommendations on their report to the Panel's successor body.

PR52 AUDIT COMMITTEE CONSULTATION REPORT

The Committee noted the decision of the Business Management Group resulting from the Audit Committee consultation, which would be recommended to Council.

RESOLVED -

1. That the decision of the Business Management Group following the Audit Committee consultation, be noted.
2. That the following issues be referred to a successor Performance Review body, if appointed:
 - (a) control of mobile phones for Council use;
 - (b) follow up Licensing Act visit - June 2006;
 - (c) consideration of Council-backed, Borough-wide Proof of Age card;
 - (d) progress against the Local Transport Plan targets;
 - (e) departments not engaging with SAP;
 - (f) school balances in excess of recommended level;
 - (g) regular reporting of Key Performance Indicator Action Plan progress;
 - (h) duplicate payment write-offs;
 - (i) effect of new legislation on regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation; and
 - (j) four-monthly reporting of performance information on street cleaning, fly-tipping, graffiti and abandoned vehicles.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.32 PM