

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Performance and Finance Select Committee 6th September 2005

Report from Director of Policy & Regeneration

For action

Wards affected:
ALL

Report Title: Proposed Task Group Topics

Forward Plan ref:

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents options for the Performance and Finance Select Committee to carry out a Task Group exercise.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee select a topic for consideration and choose the members for the Task Group.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 In order to assist members in making their choices about which topics to scrutinise during 2005/06, members may find it helpful to prioritise reviews against the following set of criteria:

- Issue of concern to members
- Major issues of public concern
- Quality of service or performance issues
- Strategic or corporate priority for the council and its partners
- Issue of national importance
- Known high level of public dissatisfaction/concern
- Services subject to major external inspection

Criteria for choosing *not* to carry out reviews could be:

- Issue being examined elsewhere (or has been in the near past)
- New legislation or guidance expected within a year

3.2 Ensuring quality in the reviews undertaken

Once members have determined which review to carry out, then the scope and terms of reference for the review can be drawn up to show when the review will take place, how long it will last, what evidence will need to be taken, the outcomes sought and whether the committee will seek to revisit the issues in due course to determine what progress has been made.

3.3 In light of the preceding criteria possible subjects for review might include:

Communications:

A particular concern for BRENT COUNCIL in reaching its desired CPA rating of excellent is its relatively low satisfaction rating from the public that does not reflect its service performance. Given the close correlation between effective communications and public satisfaction identified by the ODPM and MORI amongst others it would seem worthwhile for this committee to carry out a review of our communications division to see if there are any improvements that might be made that might help them communicate our achievements more effectively.

Vital Signs:

Alternatively, it would be worthwhile to choose an area of concern from the list of Vital Signs. The Vital Signs performance monitoring highlights areas where the council is not meeting targets it has set for itself. Members could choose one of the performance indicators to carry out further in depth analysis and to propose options for improvement.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The financial implications would be usually covered within the Policy and Regeneration Unit budget.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report at this stage in the reporting process.

6.0 DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct diversity implications arising from this report.

7.0 STAFFING/ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS (IF APPROPRIATE)

- 7.1 The staff support would be usually provided by the Policy and Regeneration Unit.

Background Papers

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