



Meeting: PERFORMANCE & FINANCE SELECT COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, 24th January 2007

Time: 7.30 pm

**Venue: Committee Room 4, 2nd Floor, Brent Town Hall,
Forty Lane, Wembley, HA9 9HD**

AGENDA

Membership:

Members
DUNN (C)
DETRE (VC)

BESSONG
BUTT
JONES
MENDOZA
J MOHER
PAGNAMENTA

1st Alternates
Corcoran
Malik

Shah
John
D Long
Baker
Moloney
Motley

2nd Alternates
Matthews
Kansagra

C J Patel
Coughlin
J Long
Mistry
Powney
Jackson

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**PLEASE BRING THESE PAPERS WITH YOU TO THE MEETING
THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS MEETING**

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www.brent.gov.uk/commins.nsf



Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

1. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests (if any)**

Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant financial or other interest in the items on this agenda.

2. **Deputations (if any)**

p.1 3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 9th November 2006**

The minutes are attached.

4. **Matters Arising**

p.13 5. Report from the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources

Revenue and Benefits Performance

This report outlines performance in relation to the Benefits (Housing and Council Tax Benefit) Service and provides a summary of Revenues (Council Tax and National Non Domestic Rate {NNDR}) collection. Performance is shown as at 30 November 2006. Where the figures are available, an update is included for performance as at 31st December 2006.

Margaret Read (Head of Revenue and Benefits) and David Oates (Head, Benefits) will present at the meeting and respond to Members' questions.

Representatives from Capita will also be in attendance to respond to Members' questions.

p.39 6. Report from the Director of Policy and Regeneration

Comprehensive Performance Assessment – Where Are We and Where Are We Going

Brent's headline interim Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) general survey satisfaction scores are out and their impact on our Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) score both this year and the following is predicted below. The Council only have until March 31st 2007 to affect its' score in relation to the 2007 December Refresh CPA star rating (the make up of which is yet to be finally confirmed by the Audit Commission). At present it is unlikely that Council will be able to maintain its' corporate score of three stars in 2007 despite improvements in most areas of service provision. The area impacting on the score most is the culture block but further challenges to continued service provision resulting from the financial context in the year ahead are also predicted to affect progress in other blocks.



To have any chance of reaching four stars before the CPA is superseded by a new framework in 2009, the Council has to continue to raise performance of low scoring performance indicators before March 2008. To reach four stars the Council has to be able to maintain present performance in all the blocks and improve the score for the culture, housing and environment blocks to a three.

- p.45 7. Report from the Director of Policy and Regeneration

Annual Report on the Council's Handling of Complaints 2005/06

This is the seventh annual report on the operation of the Council's corporate complaints procedure. It analyses the complaints considered by the Local Government Ombudsman; describes the Council's performance under our own procedure; and reports on developments in the Council's complaint handling arrangements.

- p.61 8. **Vital Signs Performance Digest Quarter Two July – September 2006**

This report introduces the Vital Signs for the period July to September 2006 (quarter two). The Vital Signs monitors the council's performance against key indicators.

Two briefing notes in appendices 2 and 3 are also attached.

- p.105 *Appendix 2 – Briefing Note: Vital Sign BV 163 D: Adoptions of Children Looked After*

This briefing note informs Members on the proportion of children looked after through adoption for 2005/2006, the various issues facing the Council in the adoption process and what future activities are planned.

- p.109 *Appendix 3 - Briefing Note: Vital Sign: Number of Library Visits per 1,000 of Population*

This briefing note informs Members on the number of library visitors in 2005/2006, visitor trends over the previous years and plans to address issues concerning collection of visitor data.

- p.111 9. **Brent Local Area Agreement – Six Month Progress Report**

This report provides an updates on the process and information required for the six month review and the annual refresh of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). It introduces the report prepared for the review of the first six months of the LAA submitted to GOL and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on 10th November 2006. It also covers proposals to comply with the annual 're-fresh' process for the LAA.

The report covers the following issues:-



- The information prepared for the six-month review submission on this agenda as 'Brent's Local Area Agreement – Six month review'
- Actions required for the annual 're-fresh' of the LAA.

10. **Performance & Finance Select Committee Work Programme**

Members are asked to consider future topics to be included in the Select Committee's Work Programme.

11. **Items Requested onto the Overview and Scrutiny Agenda (if any)**

There have been none.

12. **Recommendations from the Executive for Items to be Considered by the Performance and Finance Select Committee (if any)**

There have been none.

13. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14th March 2007.

14. **Any Other Urgent Business**

Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Democratic Services Manager or his representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order No 64.



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- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.
- Toilets are available on the 1st and 2nd floors.
- Catering facilities can be found on the 1st floor near the Assembly Hall and also on the 2nd floor near the Council Chamber.
- A public telephone is located in the foyer on the ground floor, opposite the Porters' Lodge.

