

FINANCIAL PLANNING 2009/10 – 2011/12

Cabinet responses to the recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meetings on 8, 15 and 18 December 2008 and 5 January 2009.

	Recommendation of Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet response
	Council Wide Issues	
1.	That the Cabinet continue to press the case for a more favourable settlement for Haringey with appropriate Government Ministers and to seek the support of local MP's.	Agreed – the Council will continue its dialogue with the government pressing for an improved settlement. Particular attention will be drawn to the area cost adjustment in the funding formula and the Children and Young People social care formula changes in previous years.
2.	That the full 2.5% reduction in VAT be passed on to customers in respect of fees and charges made by the Council.	The large majority of reductions have been made, but where reductions have proved impractical existing fees levels have been maintained, however, other concessions have been provided such as free car parking in the lead up to Christmas.
3.	That any service or revenue cost benefits accruing be reported with the other Capital bid supporting information.	Agreed.
4.	That the Council do all it can to persuade companies providing it with goods or services to employ local people on contracts the council lets and for those companies to offer training and development opportunities for local people and to establish modern apprenticeship opportunities for local people.	Agreed – the Council is already committed to achieving this and is working with contractors on Building Schools for the Future and Decent Homes providing local jobs and apprentice schemes. The Council will press further to increase the numbers of these where opportunities arise.
	Leader of the Council	
	No recommendations.	N/A

Adult, Social Care & Wellbeing		
5.	That the Cabinet delay a decision on the proposal to take £131K, effective from 2010/11, from the adult services transport provision, until it has considered a scrutiny review report on transport provision for vulnerable adults, due for completion before the end of this municipal year.	Not agreed. The saving is put forward now on the basis the time between now and 2010 will be sufficient to ensure all implications are considered.
Community Cohesion & Involvement		
6.	That the Cabinet introduce a more challenging target for increased advertising revenue from Haringey People, than the £84k target set over the next two years.	Agreed – this higher target figure can be included in the business plan target for the value for money review.
7.	The committee requests the Cabinet to increase existing grants to Voluntary Sector organisations by inflation, as a minimum.	Not agreed – grant sums applied for are on the basis of the cash that is required each year – inflation is not part of the grant conditions.
Resources		
8.	In future the committee would like to see energy savings expressed in the number of BTU's saved, as well as the cash sum.	Agreed.
9.	That the Cabinet reconsider the proposal to establish a specialist Overpayment recovery team.	The team is considered an important requirement and needs to be established in order to recover due costs. A higher level of work is arising from the additional data matching information being provided.
Leisure, Culture & Lifelong Learning		
	No recommendations	N/A

Regeneration & Enterprise		
10.	That the Cabinet invest more to increase Haringey's Olympic profile and attract investment to the area.	Not agreed – the Cabinet consider the level of proposed investment sufficient to supplement the allocation of existing resources for this.
11.	That the Cabinet give greater opportunity for local businesses to bid for council contracts.	Agreed – the Head of Corporate Procurement will be asked to consider appropriate strategies to enable this.
Housing		
12.	That numbers in temporary accommodation be closely monitored and savings taken only when the expected reduction has been delivered.	There are increased costs built in to the budget, but part of the strategy will be to deliver temporary housing in the most cost effective way. Therefore a combination of savings and investments are incorporated in the plans.
Environment & Conservation		
13.	That the Cabinet reconsider the proposal to reduce frequencies on sweeping of Headings.	Agree to reconsider this proposal with a view to seeing if this saving could be made elsewhere in the service.
Children and Young People		
14.	That any significant budget variance as a result of the new Director of Children and Young People's assessment of the department's resources position, be reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee, when known.	Agreed. It is proposed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be consulted on the proposals arising from the inspection action plan led by the new Director.
15.	That the Council continues with its efforts in pressing the government for parity on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding with inner London levels.	Agreed – the Council is already working with its Schools Forum to influence the current national DSG funding review and will continue to give this initiative a high priority with a view to achieving parity of funding.

Capital Programme		
16.	That the Committee be informed of the respective priority of each bid as reported to Cabinet in order to assist it in making recommendations in future years.	Cabinet will consider how best to provide a prioritisation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the future.
17.	That the bids for Capital resources for office refurbishment and maintenance of the property portfolio be considered as a low priority.	Cabinet will consider how best to meet the office refurbishment programme which will deliver revenue efficiency savings as well as carbon reductions together with the minimum asset maintenance required against other bids for capital resources.
N/a	That any service or revenue cost benefits accruing be reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee with other Capital bid supporting information in the future.	Agreed.