

KEY ISSUES IN FINANCE

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Overview and Scrutiny

Audit & Risk Management

- Setting up the London-wide mutual insurance company, which must be operative from 1st April 2007. Haringey officers are on the working groups to establish terms and conditions for the mutual's operational processes and the Acting Director of Finance will be one of the company's directors.
- Re-tendering the internal audit contract, currently provided by Deloitte and Touche, for the council and Homes for Haringey. New contract must be in place by 1st April 2007.

Corporate Finance

- CPA – Use of Resources (UoR) – develop and implement an action plan to achieve level 4
- Lead on value for money issues for the Council
- Improve financial training for managers and Members
- Assist all areas of the Council to fully comply with the Council's risk management strategy and processes, so that all key risks facing the Council are appropriately identified, monitored and reported

Benefits and Local Taxation (BLT)

- Representatives from BLT and the Preventions and Options team met recently to agree partnership working around the objective to reduce families in Temporary Accommodation by 3500 over the next several years. The key agreements were on aligning processes when receiving new claims and the liaison arrangement for maintaining claims in payment and resolving problems.
- London Councils (formerly ALG) have released comparative data showing the effects on London LA's of the DWP's changes to the Performance Standards performance measures 10 (PM10), which contributes to the BLT's CPA score. This indicates that London LA's including Haringey are likely to score a 1 (poor) score against this amended measure, where as before they received a 4 score (excellent). The overall effects of this on the overall CPA

score have yet to be determined. It would appear as though London LA's are particularly affected due to the more complex nature of their Benefits caseload.

- The build up to the migration to BLT's new document management system COMINO work flow 2 has began with a training scoping meeting. Early indications are that 5 or 6 members of staff will have to be seconded to this project full time. The business now needs to work out the impact of this i.e. how these positions can be covered.

Procurement

- The achievement of the £2m cashable (revenue) target is proving harder than expected and will thus likely require the shortfall to be rolled over into the following year. Approx £0.6m potential savings are currently being pursued through work in progress.
- The volatile energy market posed a particular threat to Haringey (increasing at over 30% p.a. and with daily price swings of +/- 5%) but CPU changed the procurement strategy in Summer away from annual spot buying in favour of flexible day ahead wholesale buying. This has significantly reduced the impact of the volatile market on the Council budget.
- Another issue facing CPU and the Council is that of skill shortages within the Construction market. Haringey has a huge works programme (Regeneration and BSF etc) and we have been unable to recruit suitable candidates.

Property Services

- Corporate Management of Property - take responsibility for the corporate management of all operational properties (except schools and housing) from April 2007 and implement an improvement plan to address condition, efficiency and suitability.
- Supporting Regeneration - develop key Council owned sites (including Hornsey TH, Tottenham TH, Hornsey Depot etc.) and work with other landowners and partners to meet the regeneration objectives for the Borough.
- Community Buildings - establish a strategic framework for the community buildings portfolio that supports the development of a successful and vibrant voluntary and community sector to improve the quality of services. Identify buildings used for community services that are not currently managed corporately to consider whether these should be integrated. Review the effectiveness of buildings in the corporate portfolio to drive up performance.
- Financial and Service Targets - review and develop staffing and other resources to meet capital receipts, efficiency and customer service targets.