

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee: Holding the Executive to Account

Scrutiny Monitoring – 14th March 2013

Date	Portfolio	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
12:07:12	Resources	Changes to existing revenue and capital budgets	<p>That the Cabinet Member requests details of the Capita Partnership's Senior Managers pay levels and circulates to OSMC</p> <p>Follow up 16th August: That the Cabinet Member requests details of the Capita Partnership's Senior Managers pay bands and the number of managers in each band and circulates to OSMC</p>	<p>This has not been requested at the current time. The Council is working positively with Capita to deliver savings, and this would only serve as a distraction.</p> <p>Officers have requested the information from Capita.</p>	
13:09:12	Efficiency & Improvement		<p>That relevant SCC departments collaborate to agree an approach to service planning such that all use the same set of data sources, analyse and interpret the information derived in a consistent way and share information in order to produce the most effective and efficient results</p>	<p>The Policy, Performance Management and Systems review completed in December 2011 recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of a data warehouse or a central point of access to information on policies, performance and systems including an agreed (reduced) list of policies, performance indicators and systems in use • Within this exercise, to identify the top high level strategies and policies and PIs that link to them (to form the core), setting out clearly the golden thread from strategy to practice and a council wide gateway process for reviewing and developing these in the future • Identify ways in which officers can shift resources and focus from scanning data to analysis and problem solving to improve the overall product and outcomes from data. <p>The implementation of the review is about to commence and will take on board this OSMC recommendation.</p>	<p>A verbal update will be provided to OSMC at the 14th March meeting.</p>

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18:02:13	Efficiency and Improvement	Grants	<p>i) Cabinet assure themselves that adequate funding has been allocated to those organisations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and support the most vulnerable and provide advice for those in need at a time of acute pressures; • compliment the Council's substantial investment in promoting Southampton's cultural offering and the related economic development opportunities; and • have the capacity to lever in additional investment into the city. 	<p>Following the OSMC meeting, representations from organisations were considered, together with the impact of the welfare reforms along with how existing advice organisations work together. This resulted in a revised recommendation to offer funding to the EU Welcome Project, in recognition that the organisation would close without it and also that this would have a knock-on effect on other agencies such as CAB and SARC. The review of recommendations also took into account the potential for organisations to lever in other funds, which resulted in a changed recommendation for the Saints Foundation. The Cabinet considered OSMC's recommendation in relation to the city's cultural offering and its contribution to economic development, but with limited funds available the decision was taken to focus on maintaining a level of advice provision in the city.</p>	Completed
			<p>ii) That the Cabinet Member for Efficiency and Improvement circulates to the Committee details of the cost of the grant assessment process</p>	<p>The grants appraisal process for 2013/14 to 2015/16 involved 23 officers from across the council. The average amount of time officers spent was 2 weeks, though this varied according to the number of applications for their specialist area. The rough cost of the appraisal process was £19,350, which equates to £6,450 for each year of the scheme. The £19,350 cost is approximately 0.4% of the total 3 year budget of £4,977,756.</p>	Completed
			<p>iii) That the Cabinet Member for Efficiency and Improvement reconsiders proposed funding awards for those organisations that are able to fund initiatives from their own resources.</p>	<p>In submitting revised recommendations to Cabinet, the issues under recommendation (i) were also taken into account. Taking OSMC recommendations (i) and (iii) into account led to the changed recommendations as highlighted above.</p>	Completed

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18:02:13	Housing and Leisure Services	Licensing Scheme for HMO's	i) That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Leisure Services involves all wards where the 10% threshold of Houses of Multiple Occupation has been reached (including the Bassett ward) in the initial role out of the scheme	Following an evaluation of the evidence and legal advice it has been decided to implement the HMO additional licensing scheme initially in Bevois, Bargate, Portswood and Swaythling wards only. Mandatory licensing of the larger HMO's and existing enforcement powers will continue to be used outside of these wards. If there is significant evidence of market distortion the situation will be reviewed.	Completed
			ii) That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Leisure Services ensures that the Council's default position, subject to evaluation, is to roll out the scheme Citywide by 2016, and earlier if market distortion is detected.	The OSMC recommendation in support of rolling out the HMO Additional Licensing scheme Citywide will be taken into account when this is considered prior to 2016.	Completed