

COMMUNITY AND ADULT CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

BUDGET PLANNING PANEL

REPORT TO COMMITTEE 4 JULY 2006

Membership: Margaret Nolder, Deryck Nash, Kathy Williams (Julie Girling)

Officers: Mark Branton, Andrea Clarke

The panel have met on two occasions (2 May and 19 June 2006). Councillor Deryck Nash was elected Chairperson for the duration of this panel.

The panel agreed the following terms of reference: -

To consider how budget reports can be improved to better demonstrate links between budget allocation and performance in order to improve and enhance the committee's performance management work, and to enable better scrutiny of the MTFs consultation which is undertaken annually.

At the meeting on 2 May it was agreed that the development of clear reports, and an understanding of the MTFs process would be the key factors to improving performance and budget monitoring.

The panel agreed that it would be useful, in order to gain an understanding of the situation across the Community and Adult Care Directorate, if third tier managers were asked for details of the top 3/5 issues that were driving service direction for their part of the Directorate, the top 3/5 performance issues and the top 3/5 ways in which they were linking these to the budgetary position. The panel is currently considering this information.

The panel had hoped to submit a final report to this meeting of the committee. However Cllr Julie Girling who was the driver in setting up this panel, is not now a member of the committee, and has been replaced on the panel by Cllr Kathy Williams. Additionally it quickly became apparent that the detail of the reports and non-availability of members meant that a thorough study could not be completed in the time available. The panel agreed that in these circumstances it would be beneficial to defer the final report until September in order to give all members of the panel sufficient time to consider the information received from officers, and how this information can be drawn on in the development of performance/budget reports to the committee, and whether it identifies any issues that may require more detailed investigation by the committee. The panel do not feel that this delay should impact upon the committee's work, particularly as the next round of MTFs consultation would not start until later in the year.

Cllr Deryck Nash
June 2006

COMMUNITY AND ADULT CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ESTATES STRATEGY PANEL

REPORT TO COMMITTEE 4 JULY 2006

Membership: Margaret Nolder, Deryck Nash, Kathy Williams

Officers; Mark Branton, Andrea Clarke

The panel met on 1 June 2006. Cllr Margaret Nolder was elected Chairperson.

The panel agreed on the following terms of reference:

To offer appropriate and timely advice on the development of the estates strategy, by the Gloucestershire Care Partnership (GCP), to the Lead Cabinet Member Community and Adult Care.

The panel agreed that at this stage of the process whilst the strategy is under development the confidentiality of this work must be respected and it was therefore agreed that meetings of the panel would be held in private. Should the committee decide that it wishes to undertake further work during the consultation period then that future work could be undertaken within the public domain.

The panel were fully updated on the work being undertaken to develop the strategy. It should be noted that the new strategy whilst being developed jointly with the Order of St John Care Trust (OSJCT) will be owned by the county council. The panel had sight of a confidential draft proposal of how the re-provisioning could look across the county. Members of the panel did not feel that this proposal would be seen as contentious, but did recognise that there could be some concerns around possible planning proposals and impressed the importance of keeping local members fully informed throughout the process.

Unfortunately the timeline for the development of the strategy prevents the panel from submitting a final report to the committee at the meeting on 4 July 2006. The timeline for the receipt of the final report by Cabinet also does not sit within the committee's scheduled meeting dates, and therefore the panel will need to offer any advice directly to the Lead Cabinet Member. Given that the panel do not see that this is a contentious area the committee is asked to agree that a direct report be made to the Lead Cabinet Member Community and Adult Care.

Councillor Margaret Nolder
June 2006