



Council Excellence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Wednesday, 17 March 2010
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members are asked to consider whether they have personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they are.

Members are reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they are subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 6)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2010.

3. FINANCIAL MONITORING STATEMENT (Pages 7 - 12)

4. GENERAL FINANCIAL MATTERS (Pages 13 - 24)

5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2010 TO 2013 (Pages 25 - 56)

6. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) REQUESTS (Pages 57 - 60)

7. FORWARD PLAN (Pages 61 - 68)

8. **REACHING 'EXCELLENT' LEVEL OF THE EQUALITY FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Pages 69 - 76)**
9. **2009/2010 THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT BY EXCEPTION (Pages 77 - 86)**
10. **OFFICE RATIONALISATION PROJECT - UPDATE (Pages 87 - 90)**
11. **COMMITTEE REFERRAL - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 21 JANUARY 2010**

At its meeting held on 21 January 2010 (minute 55a refers), the Children and Young People O&S Committee considered minute 25 'Financial Monitoring Statement', of the Council Excellence Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16 September, 2009, which had requested that the consideration of serious concerns with regard to the projected overspend in the Children and Young People's Department.

Minute 55a reads as follows –

“The Director of Children's Services responded to the concerns and stated that all his officers were aware of the need to keep within the budget set by the Council at the beginning of March 2009. The schools budget had increased by twice the level of inflation but the non-schools budget expenditure had been constrained. The non-schools budget amounted to approximately £70m revenue budget, half of which was social care related and the other half of which was non-school educational needs.

The Director explained the expenditure that was involved in placing children in specialist care at an average cost for each child of £150,000 per annum. This was a budget that had to respond to need and could not be predicted with any certainty, although every measure was taken to try and reduce the number, currently at 45, by placing children with families, wherever possible.

Rigorous measures were in place in the Department to constrain expenditure, including vacancy savings of about £1m a year. The Director reported that the Director of Finance was about to report to Cabinet a predicted £975,000 overspend for the end of quarter 3 and he was confident that this position would be further improved by the end of quarter 4.

Resolved – That the comments of the Director be noted and these be referred to the Council Excellence Overview and Scrutiny Committee.”

12. **REVIEW OF SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 91 - 100)**
13. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR**