

Subject: Use of Resources Action Plan

Status: For Publication

Report to: Audit Committee

Date: 4th December 2008

Report of: Head of Financial Services

Portfolio

Holder: Finance & Resources

Key Decision: No

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members regarding the Council's Use of Resources action plan in order to achieve a score of 3 by 2010.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
- Well Managed Council (Improvement, Community Network)

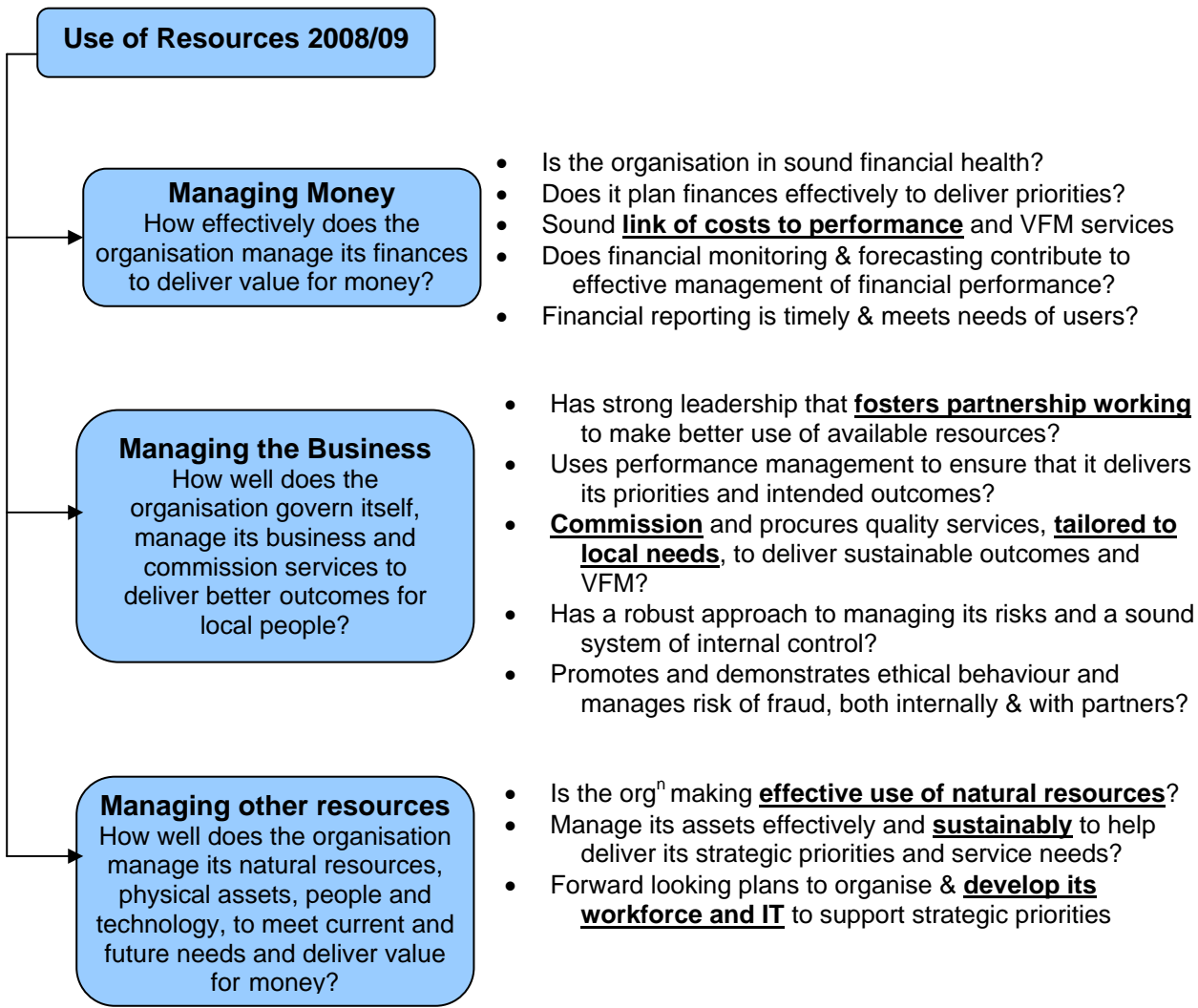
3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- Reputational in that the annual Use of Resources score is an independent and public assessment of how the Council manages its financial affairs.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 The latest published score for the Council in relation to Use of Resources is 2. We are due to receive our latest score for the period ended March 2008, sometime during December 2008. Early indications are that we retain our score of 2.
- 4.2 An action plan has therefore been drawn up in order to take a corporate wide approach and collective ownership of the goal of achieving a score of 3 by 2010 (Action Plan attached as Appendix 1)
- 4.3 The Use of Resources “Key Lines of Enquiry” (KLoE) for 2008/09 have further developed the previous assessment areas (Financial Reporting, Management Standing, Internal Control and Value for Money) and consolidated and enhanced them as follows:



4.4 Scoring as a result of the revised KLoEs will demonstrate the following:

Use of Resources 2008/09 Scoring		
level 2 <i>only at minimum requirements – adequate performance</i>	level 3 <i>consistently above minimum requirements – performing well</i>	level 4 <i>well above minimum requirements – performing strongly</i>
Arrangements that are consistent with established professional practice and guidance and meet statutory requirements.	Implemented arrangements are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more forward looking and proactive • more complex to operate, eg through partnerships; • more sophisticated measuring and assessment 	Demonstrating innovation and best practice.
Arrangements sufficient to address the KLOE eg. demonstrating commitment and leadership, risk based strategy and supporting action plans, capacity and skills.	Outputs and outcomes demonstrate arrangements are effective.	Demonstrating strong outcomes for the community.
Effective arrangements which achieve minimum levels of performance.	Evidence of performing consistently above adequate performance and achieving value for money	Achieving excellent value for money.

4.5 Use of resources is the Commission’s annual assessment of how well organisations manage their resources and will be one element of the new CAA framework.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

5.1 Financial matters are dealt with in the body of the report.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

6.1 The Monitoring officer has agreed the action plan. She and her team are taking a proactive role in delivering the plan.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

7.1 The Head of People & Policy has agreed the action plan. She and her team are taking a proactive role in delivering the plan.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 That the action plan is robust and fit for purpose in delivering a future Use of Resources score of 3.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1 That Members note and accept the Use of Resources action plan.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 Directors and Officers

10.2 Internal Audit

10.3 External Audit

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required No

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached No

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Audit Commission - Use of Resources Reports	Finance