

# Performance Improvement Scrutiny Committee



Date	25 May 2006
Venue	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members	Keith Hyde (Chairman) Fabian Wilson (Vice Chairman) Christine Akeroyd, Eric Bamber, Elizabeth Clarke, Derek Lancaster, Hilda Wilson
Other Councillors	Sue Fazackerley, Paul Rigby
Officers	Allan Oldfield, Lorraine Charlesworth, Tony Kendall, Christopher Kitchin, Lance Postings, Peter Welsh, Carolyn Whewell
Others	Annie Womack

## 1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

## 2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Performance Improvement Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 23 March 2006 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

## 3. Substitute members

No Substitute members were reported.

## 4. The Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) Final Statement

Allan Oldfield (Policy & Change Executive Manager) provided a detailed account of the Final IEG Statement. The detailed report provided Members with an update on the IEG programme at Fylde Borough Council and the direction for electronic government from March 2006.

The final IEG Statement provided details of each of the IEG priority outcomes and the status of the outcome on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2006. Several of the projects had carried over to the 2006/07 financial year and would be completed later in the year. The statement also included details of optional best practice change management initiatives that the council

had implemented, details of on line transactions, recent take up figures, the cost of IEG and the efficiency gains

Following the presentation members raised a number of issues which included partnership working with Blackpool (council tax and business rates e-billing); reasons for slippage on some of the action points; mobile office services and the take-up of on-line payslips by councillors and staff.

The committee also questioned members take-up and usage of the I.T. equipment provided by IEG funding and agreed that only members of a committee should receive hard copies of agendas. The committee were informed that if this action were implemented approximately £10,000 could be saved on staff time, photocopying charges, and postage.

Following consideration Members RESOLVED:

1. To recognise the achievements made to date in implementing electronic solutions.
2. .
3. That the Committee supports and champion the take up campaign for electronic services.
4. To support proposals that only members of a committee should receive hard copies of agendas.

#### 5. 2005/2006 BVPI Final Out Turn Report

Councillor Susan Fazackerley (Portfolio Holder for Corporate Performance & Development) and Allan Oldfield (Policy & Change Executive Manager) presented a joint presentation on the 2005/2006 performance indicators reported by Fylde Borough Council and details of the targets and additional indicators required for 2006/2007. Councillor Fazackerley advised that some of the indicators were affected by the demographics within the borough, and that the performance slippages would be addressed.

Members raised concerns focussing on why slippages had occurred on a number of BVPIs.

Lorraine Charlesworth (Human Resources Manager) presented to Members sickness statistics for Fylde Borough Council together with comparisons of sickness levels in local authorities in Lancashire.

Members raised a number of issues including the number of employees off on long term sickness; the training for office and manual workers; whether or not accidents were reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE); how many accidents were reported under the RIDDOR legislation; perceived benefits following the health & safety partnership with Blackpool Borough Council and how quickly risk assessments were carried out for new employees.

Members also sought clarity as to why the performance for BVPI points 109 A & C and 204 (Page 43) and 204 had fallen. *(Chris insert details of the BVPIs)*

Members thanked Mr Oldfield for the work that he continues to present to the Committee.

After discussion Members RESOLVED:

1. That the Committee approves the national and local performance indicator out turn figures for 2005/2006 as detailed at Appendix 1 in the report.
2. That the Committee scrutinise and approve the compulsory three-year targets set against the national best value performance indicators.
3. That the Committee agrees to receive quarterly performance reports against the key national and local indicators as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

#### 6. Benefit Review Unit Workplan and Year End Report

Lance Postings (Benefit Review Manager) and Tony Kendall (Fraud and Verification Manager) presented a joint report. The Benefit Fraud Inspectorate's report in March 2005 noted that whilst the processing of benefits and the investigation of benefit fraud were satisfactory, there was a failing on the part of the Council, in Strategic Management. This was primarily levelled at Senior Management and Member involvement.

The workplan of the Benefit Review Unit were scrutinised by the committee who were informed that the unit aimed to improve on an annual basis and that any perceived weaknesses were addressed.

Members were pleased that the Benefit Review Unit were meeting their targets and congratulated Mr Kendall and Mr Postings for their work.

Members RESOLVED:

1. That the Committee notes the Benefit Fraud Inspection report findings.

#### 7. Appoint Audit Sub Committee

Carolyn Whewell presented the report that detailed the request for Members of the Performance Improvement Scrutiny Committee to be appointed to the Audit Sub Committee. Miss Whewell reminded members that the Audit Sub Committee must be politically balanced.

The Chairman Councillor Keith Hyde recommended that three Members be appointed to the Audit Sub Committee.

The committee RESOLVED that the following members be appointed to serve on the Audit Sub-Committee.

Councillor Keith Hyde

Councillor Fabian Wilson

Councillor Derek Lancaster

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