

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Supplementary Information



Date: Thursday, 8 September 2016

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: City Hall, College Green, BRISTOL

Distribution:

Councillors: Charlie Bolton, Nicola Bowden-Jones, Tom Brook, Jude English, Geoff Gollop, Gill Kirk, Brenda Massey, Olly Mead, Graham Morris, Anthony Negus and Steve Pearce

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Date: 1 September 2016



**13. Mayor's Response regarding Cabinet Referral - Budget Timetable and Mayor's Forward Plan
7.50 pm**

To receive for information a written reply from Mayor Rees following the OSM referral to Cabinet on 4th July 16 relating to the Mayor's Forward Plan and Budget Timeline.

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Statement from OSMB to Cabinet and Response from the Mayor

STATEMENT

Public Forum - Item 10 Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Prospectus

I make this statement on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB). According to the Mayor's Forward Plan, this item was added to the Plan on 13 July for decision on 11 August, and whilst this matter has been considered by scrutiny in the past, the timetable clearly prevents scrutiny from having any additional input, particularly as the information only became publicly available with the publishing of the plan on 8 August. Can I remind the Mayor that following the 15th June meeting, OSMB made a formal referral to the Mayor at Cabinet on 4th July regarding the Mayor's Forward Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan. The full recommendation was as follows;

'That the Mayor and Cabinet;

- 1. Fully update the Forward Plan for the next 12 months, within the next month, and provisionally update it for the next 4 years by the end of August.*
- 2. As soon as possible, confirm the timeframe in which the Medium Term Financial Plan will be available for consideration by Scrutiny.'*

At the Cabinet meeting, the Mayor supported both of the recommendations. However, OSMB have been disappointed to see that in the August version of the Mayor's Forward Plan a significant number of 'new' items have been added, which will not provide the opportunity for them to be considered by Scrutiny. Furthermore, the Forward Plan now only runs until December 16, when previously it was populated in part until April 17.

The Mayor is asked to provide an update on these matters at his earliest convenience.

Councillor Geoffrey Gollop
Chair of OSMB

RESPONSE

As stated previously I am fully supportive of Scrutiny and I look forward to working with them in the coming years. At this time I am working at pace with my Cabinet and SLT, including our new interim CEO, to identify our priorities. My manifesto pledges form part of this but obviously there is a huge amount else that the council delivers and this must all be shaped into one Corporate Plan to be signed off by Full Council. This means at this point in time we cannot produce a fully populated Forward Plan for the next 12 months, however, once we have an approved Corporate Plan we shall be able to do so on a longer term basis.

I have however instructed that where decisions are in the pipeline they should be added to the Forward Plan at the earliest juncture so there is an opportunity for them to be considered by Scrutiny. It should only be in exceptional circumstances out of our control (e.g. rapid changes from government) that items should be added with only the statutory 28 day notice period. There is a legal process we must follow should decisions have to be made with less than 28 days' notice, which sets out our requirements for engaging with scrutiny chairs.

It is my intention that members of scrutiny be able to work through line by line the budget proposals for 2017-18 from mid October. I would like to work with scrutiny to ensure that where they feel proposals need changing that alternative suggestions are made. The budget, as we are all aware, will be extremely challenging this year. I believe that we must work closely as elected members to try and ensure we have a budget and a Corporate Plan that delivers the best possible outcomes for the citizens of Bristol and delivers the pledges that they elected me into office to deliver.