

Item No. 43	Classification: Open	Date: 6 February 2003	MEETING NAME Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Report title:		Charter School Scrutiny: Draft Project Brief	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Borough Solicitor & Secretary	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Members consider the draft Project Brief and background papers appended to this report and agree a project brief for the inquiry into Charter School.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. On 22 October 2002 the Executive considered a report on the Capital Programme for 2002-03, noted the current position, and agreed to ask Overview & Scrutiny Committee to investigate the reasons for, and the implications of, the overspend on Charter School and the general state of the Capital Programme.
3. Overview & Scrutiny Committee subsequently considered this request at its meeting on 13 November 2002. In addition to allocating scrutiny of the Capital Programme to Finance & General Purposes Scrutiny Sub-Committee, Members agreed the following in relation to Charter School, i.e.
 - *“That scrutiny of the Charter School overspend be agreed in principle, subject to confirmation from the Borough Solicitor & Secretary as to the anticipated completion dates of current inquiries being undertaken into the matter by District Audit and Faithful & Gould, expected to be January 2003.*
 - *That the Executive Member with Portfolio for Education, Youth and Leisure, and the Executive Member with Portfolio for Finance be advised of this Committee’s resolutions in respect of the Charter School Overspend, and that management action be taken to address the overspend, pending the completion of inquiries into and scrutiny of the matter.*
 - *That the Project Brief for scrutiny of the Charter School overspend, as outlined at Appendix B to the report [see Appendix D], be agreed, subject to the additional recommendation that the Governing Body and Headteachers be called as witnesses to the inquiry.”*
4. An initial Project Brief for this scrutiny was agreed by OSC at this meeting. However, Members were subsequently advised that neither the District Audit nor W.S. Atkins reports on Charter School would be available until early 2003, and in the light of the potential delay further advice was sought from the Chief Executive in respect of how scrutiny might be taken forward.

5. Overview & Scrutiny Committee received an update on the position in respect of progress towards scrutiny of the matter at its meeting on 15 January 2003. Although, as expected, neither the District Audit nor W.S. Atkins reports on Charter School were concluded, the project specification for the District Audit "Overview of Capital Building Project and Project Management Arrangements at the Charter School" inquiry was circulated to those present (Appendix C), together with the Chief Executive's advice (Appendix B) on how Members might take scrutiny forward in the absence of the anticipated reports.
6. Following discussion, OSC agreed
 1. *"That draft terms of reference for scrutiny of Charter School be brought to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 6 February 2003 for agreement, with a view to scrutiny commencing on 19 February 2003;*
 2. *That the reports of District Audit and W.S. Atkins be made available for Member consideration as soon as they become available;*
 3. *That a report on work carried out by the Finance & General Purposes Scrutiny Sub-Committee in respect of Member involvement be brought to Overview & Scrutiny Committee".*

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. Members are asked to consider the draft project brief as set out at Appendix A, in order that scrutiny into this matter may proceed without further delay.
8. Reports from District Audit and W.S. Atkins are not expected to be available at this meeting.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no specific resource implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Overview & Scrutiny Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agendas and papers • Minutes 	Constitutional Support Unit Rm 3.16, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Lucas Lundgren Constitutional Support Officer Tel: 0207 525 7224
Executive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agendas and Minutes 	Constitutional Support Unit Rm 3.16, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Everton Roberts Constitutional Support Officer Tel: 0207 525 7221

Audit Trail

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 Version Final - Tuesday, February 04, 2003

CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	Taken into account