

Item No. 5	Classification: Open	Date: 12 ^h January 2004	MEETING NAME Overview & Scrutiny
Report title:		<i>Executive Roundup: Response to Executive from OSC Reports</i>	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards	
From:		Head of Corporate Strategy	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That members note the resolution from Executive meeting (2nd December 2003) regarding the OSC report on the refurbishment of the Charter School.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the 13th October meeting finalized the Scrutiny Report on the Charter School and forwarded its report to the Executive.
3. The Executive its meeting on 2nd December considered the Overview and Scrutiny Report on Charter Schools and resolved the following:
 1. That the report from the Chief Finance Officer, responding to the report from Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.
 2. That Overview and Scrutiny Committee be thanked for its in-depth review of the Charter School overspend and their recommendations that seek to avoid repetitions of such outcomes in the future be welcomed.
 3. That the main causes for the Charter School overspend be noted as:
 - Poor budgeting at the outset, particularly with regard to the assumptions and the risks around them;
 - Poor procurement;
 - Poor project management; and
 - Failure to report and act on reports from both internal and external audit.
 4. That it be noted that Executive has already instructed officers to address the problems outlined above, particularly as some of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations were identified as part of the Best Value Review of Capital Management – which includes capital investment strategy and procurement strategy.
 5. That the recommendations set out in paragraph 7 of the report (together with officer comments) be adopted, but officers be instructed to:

- i. Bring a report on the processes and allocation of responsibilities for managing/monitoring capital projects in January;
 - ii. Bring a report on Atkins' Faithful and Gould's findings and recommendations from the Strategic Director of Education in January;
 - iii. Include formal project management procedures in the procurement guidelines, not Contract Standing Orders, and ensure that these guidelines will accompany Contract Standing Orders;
 - iv. Prepare and present to the Executive quarterly monitoring reports on the progress of 'strategic and other major' projects', particularly where issues are identified regarding compliance with Contract Standing Orders or deviations from budgets
 - v. Establish a single uniform standard for project management software and to communicate with and train, as necessary, all officers involved with project management.
6. That a progress report be received by Executive on the implementation of all recommendations in six months' time.