

<b>Item No.</b> 9.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 12 February 2013	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Policy & Resources Strategy 2013/14 - 2015/16: Revenue Budget	
<b>Ward(s) or group(s) affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Overview & Scrutiny Committee	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Cabinet monitors on an ongoing basis the impact of welfare and legal aid reform on families and individuals in the borough.
2. That Cabinet rigorously monitors the values and outcomes of funding spent on public health.
3. That Cabinet monitors the implementation of agreed Cleaner, Greener, Safer projects, investigates any backlog that has developed and make available best practice guidance across the borough (focussing specifically on self-delivery projects).
4. Overview & Scrutiny Committee is greatly concerned about the lack of information on the likely effect on Southwark of the new Business Rate mechanism and the apparent inability of the Valuation Office Agency either to provide accurate statistics or to process appeals in a timely way. The committee urges the Cabinet to press as strongly as possible for this situation to be addressed by the VOA and HM Revenue and Customs in the light of the great uncertainty caused to this and other local authorities when setting revenue budgets.
5. Overview & Scrutiny Committee is concerned about the information on no recourse to public funds issues in paragraph 97 of the report to cabinet on 29 January 2013 and urges cabinet to set up rigorous monitoring processes and continue liaison and lobbying with the Border Agency and other relevant bodies.
6. That the Cabinet seeks further information and reassurance that the saving of £55,000 relating to a reduction in advice services commissioning on the re-procurement of the contract will not impact on front line services (housing & community services - community engagement).
7. That Cabinet be asked to investigate reducing the pressure on the planning enforcement budget by the use of Section 106 funding.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

8. At its meeting on 28 January 2013 the overview & scrutiny committee considered the 29 January cabinet report, Policy & Resources Strategy 2013/14 – 2015/16: Revenue Budget.

9. In addition to considering the report, the committee interviewed cabinet members about the budget proposals for the departments within their portfolios.
10. The committee raised concerns about specific areas and considered officer responses to these concerns at its meeting on 4 February 2013.
11. The recommendations of the committee are set out above.

#### **REASONS FOR URGENCY**

12. The committee's recommendations need to be considered in conjunction with cabinet agenda item 8, Policy and Resources 2013/14 to 2015/16.

#### **REASONS FOR LATENESS**

13. It was not possible to circulate this report five clear days in advance of the meeting. The agenda for cabinet was despatched on 4 February 2013, the day of the second overview and scrutiny committee meeting.

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held at</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<a href="#">Report to Cabinet</a> 29 January 2013	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Everton Roberts Constitutional Team 020 7525 7221
<a href="#">Report to Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</a> 4 February 2013	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Peter Roberts Scrutiny Team 020 7525 4350

#### **APPENDICES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
None	

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny	
<b>Report Author</b>	Peter Roberts, Scrutiny Project Manager	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	6 February 2013	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Legal Services	N/a	N/a
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	N/a	N/a
Chief Officers	N/a	N/a
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	N/a	N/a
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		6 February 2012