

There were other areas that were unlikely to result in a reduction of costs following the transfer of housing e.g. external audit fees and other fees/charges, although a proportion of such fees was currently being charged to the Housing Revenue Account.

During the discussion it was noted that there were ongoing discussions concerning the various aspects of workstream 1. It was noted that other opportunities might arise from discussions with Colchester Borough Council, Essex County Council and other partners but that most of these opportunities were not likely to realise savings in the short term.

In referring to the reviews of Human Resources and Organisational Development Members supported the notion that there should be investment in the short term in order to skill managers and provide the capacity to carry out these reviews but also to build in an expectation that future reviews should be built into a service plan/business plan.

In discussing the various reviews it was emphasised that any review needed to have at its very heart the need to consider future needs and be fit for purpose. It was also necessary to consider the Council's priorities, internal information on performance, external information from benchmarking and customer satisfaction surveys as well as the demands of corporate assessments, in particular the Audit Commission Direction of Travel assessment.

Members considered the overlap with other corporate projects e.g. the accommodation review and the potential joint service reviews with partners. It was agreed that a clear programme was emerging and this would need to be clearly communicated to both the organisation and its partners.

Members welcomed the programme from Jan Lycett. It was noted that it had been agreed at the last Council meeting that there should be a Member Seminar on the Accommodation Project. It was agreed that it would be useful to widen the remit of the seminar to include the business efficiency reviews and partnership arrangements. That this should take place prior to or as the first part of the Cabinet meeting on 15th October 2007 and this could include other associated reports on the Cabinet agenda including the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Discovery Centre and the transfer of the housing stock to Greenfields.

DECISION: That the progress report be received and noted and that a seminar be held prior to Cabinet as described above.

4. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

DECISION: It was agreed that the next meeting of the Performance and Efficiency Programme Board should be held on Tuesday, 30th October 2007 starting at 4.00pm.

(Please note it has subsequently been agreed that this meeting should commence at 5pm)

The meeting commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 5.38pm

M C M Lager

(Chairman)