CORPORATE PERFORMANCE PANEL
HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2007
(FROM 5.30 PM TO 6.10 PM)

PRESENT: Councillor Jim Clark in the Chair. Councillors Charlie Powell and Simms.

Late Arrivals: None.

Early Departures: None.

15/07 - **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Elwyn Hinchcliffe and John Lockhart.

(5.30 pm)

16/07 - **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest.

(5.30 pm)

17/07 - **MINUTES:** It was noted that Minute 09/07 should have referred to the meeting of the Panel held on 30 July and not 3 July 2007. The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 5 September 2007, as amended, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

(Two Members voted for the motion and there was one abstention)

(5.31 pm)

18/07 - **EXEMPT INFORMATION:** There were no exempt information items.

(5.32 pm)

19/07 - **PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS – QUESTIONS:** There were no such questions to consider.

(5.32 pm)

MATTER FOR REPORT

20/07 - **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2008/09 TO 2010/2011:** The Head of Financial Management submitted a written report, considered by Cabinet on 19 September 2007, regarding the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2008/09 to 2010/2011. She reported that Cabinet had agreed the recommendations, as listed in the report, and that the Strategy was to be submitted to Council for approval on 11 October 2007. As well as the Simalto consultation exercise, the District Panel would also be consulted during Autumn 2007 and any relevant issues would be reported back to Cabinet during the 2008/09 budget process in January 2008. She advised that, in relation to the increase in fees and charges by 4%, this was based upon RPI adjusted for cost increases specific to Harrogate Borough Council and added that the majority of services should be able to sustain this increase. If a Business Unit Manager believed that their service could not manage a 4% increase then they were

able to submit a different proposal.

In relation to section 5.7 of the report, the Chair queried which two areas had scored two out of five in relation to the Use of Resources judgement. The Head of Financial Management advised that these related to Internal Control and Financial Standing and that the three other areas, Financial Management, Financial Reporting and Value for Money, scored three out of five. The Chair expressed concern that, apart from recycling, there were no other environmental issues detailed within the Strategy, especially as this was the Council's number one priority. The Chair queried why the cost of the Local Development Framework (LDF) had not been included in the Strategy and it was acknowledged that the Planning Division had been making provisions for the cost of the LDF over the last few years. Referring to concessionary fares as detailed 10.7 of the report, the Head of Financial Management advised that the cost of this to the Council was still unknown and that there was still confusion on how the additional grant would be allocated. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) would be consulting on options for grant proposals.

In relation to the Medium Term Financial Strategy consultation exercise, the Scrutiny Officer **agreed** to circulate a copy of the questionnaire to Members of the Panel as well as the complete list of consultees. It was also **agreed** that the Panel would consider the results of the consultation, prior to Cabinet in December 2007, and forward any comments to Cabinet in January 2008.

Members noted the report.

(5.33 pm - 6.10 pm)

(D)