

Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee - Major Review 2015/16 - Rates Retention and the Rating of Heathrow Airport

Contact Officers: Khalid Ahmed
Telephone: 01895 250833

REASON FOR ITEM

To be provided with evidence from witnesses for the Committee's major review into Rates Retention and the Rating of Heathrow Airport, together with a draft scoping report for Member to give consideration to.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

- 1. The Committee is asked to receive evidence from the witnesses invited to attend and to question them to assist Members in their review.**
- 2. Members are asked to receive, to make comment and approve the draft scoping report.**

INFORMATION

1. At the last meeting of the Committee held on 13 October 2015, Members received a presentation from Rates Plus, an organisation which has been working with the Council on Business Rates. A briefing paper was produced which provided the Committee with an overview of the Rates system, and particularly relating to Heathrow Airport.
2. A summary of discussion is contained in the minutes which are earlier on the agenda for this meeting.

Witnesses

3. For this meeting, **Raj Alagh, the Borough Solicitor** will be in attendance to provide the Committee with a legal opinion on aspects of the review and any possible courses of action which the Council could consider in respect of outcomes of the review.
4. Also **Mike Dunlevey, Valuation Office from the Valuation Office** has also been invited to attend the meeting to help the Committee with its review. Some of the areas he will be asked to help the Committee with include providing details on how the cumulo business rates for Heathrow Airport is arrived at. Also what will the implications be on the Ratable Value (cumulo) for Heathrow Airport with the demolition of Terminal 1 and the development of Terminal 2.
5. Further areas the Committee could explore could be why the Council as the Billing Authority is denied the details of which assessments make up the cumulo. This information is required to enable the Council to carry out accurate budget forecasting.
6. Attached to this report as Appendix A is a draft scoping report which provides the Committee with the aims and objectives of the review. Member's comments are requested on this.

Appendices

Draft Scoping Report - Appendix A