

Officer Response – CE’s Directorate/ Communications Service - to questions raised at Extraordinary Budget OSC 2 on 22nd January 2013

1. Detail requested on expenditure and savings for the Communications Service Budget. Also why advertising by the Council appeared to have increased when savings were needed.

- A** Since 2011-12 the communications service has had to operate at net nil cost.

The bulk of communications savings were taken in 2011-12 when a cross council consolidation exercise took place reducing total communications employee costs from £2.1m to the present £1.196m. East End Life costs were reduced from £1.4m to £1.2m and the paper is budgeted to operate at net nil cost.

The communications service does not hold an advertising budget. Any advertising work is commissioned by directorates as project needs arise.

2. Information requested regarding an inter-borough Council publications print contract reported in the Guardian. Disappointment expressed that Members had not been made aware of this before it became public knowledge.

- A** The inter-borough publications print contract (CE4364) was contained within item 10.5 (Contracts Forward Plan) at cabinet on 9th January 2013. The report can be found here <http://moderngov.towerhamlets.gov.uk/documents/s37832/10.5%20Q3%20contracts%20forward%20plan.docx>

In essence the contract seeks to deliver more savings the more public sector partners take part.

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