

Cabinet – 18 January 2006

Recommendations of the Children's services and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel following Budget Consultation

Service Area: All Service Areas

Wards: All

Forward Plan: No

Summary of report

This report presents the comments and recommendations from the children's services and life long learning scrutiny and performance panel following consideration of the detailed service specific budget at their meeting on 28 November 2005. This will enable consideration by cabinet before they make their final budget recommendations to Council.

Recommendations

- (1) That cabinet consider the following recommendations of resources scrutiny panel as stated below and determine whether to accept these:
 - (a) That the panel recommends a council tax increase of 3% for 2006/7
 - (b) That the Children's Service and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel agree to pass forward the proposed investments with the following priorities:
 - a. Relative and friend carer allowances.
 - b. Direct payments support.
 - c. Contact and transport payments.
 - d. Planning support to produce integrated children's plan.
- (2) That the Children's Service and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel agree to pass forward the proposed dis-investments.

Resource and legal considerations

The consideration of the draft budget reports by the scrutiny panels is an integral part of the council's budget setting process.

Citizen impact

The budget is aligned with service activity within service plans across the council. Investment has been targeted at service improvement, stability and user demand.

Community safety

None arising directly from the budget proposals

Environmental impact

None arising directly from the budget proposals

Performance and risk management issues

The council's scrutiny function sits within the performance management service. Investment choices are considered in the context of service targets and outcomes. As part of the budget setting process, a corporate financial risk assessment is undertaken to determine key risks, and their impact on the budget.

Equality implications

Services consider equalities issues in setting budgets and delivering services. Irrespective of budgetary pressures the council must fulfil equal opportunities obligations.

Consultation

All 5 scrutiny and performance panels have received budget presentations in respect of the services falling within their remit, and will receive and consider the draft corporate revenue budget and draft capital programme reports during January 2005, providing an opportunity to make recommendations to cabinet. Cabinet may wish to consider the feedback contained within this report in formulating their final budget proposals.

Vision 2008

The budget and each investment bid and saving is assessed as to its contribution to the delivery of the Council's vision.

Background papers

Various financial working papers.

Approved MTFS – Cabinet 30 November 2005

Revenue Support Grant Provisional Settlement – Cabinet 21 December 2005

Resources scrutiny panel decision conference 30 November & 15 December 2005

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Signed:

Executive Director: Carole Evans

Date: 21.12.05



Signed:

Cllr Mike Bird

Date: 21.12.05