

**HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND INCLUSION  
SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

**Agenda  
Item No.  
7**

**DATE: 24 NOVEMBER 2008**

**DRAFT BUDGET 2009/10 PROPOSALS**

**Ward(s)** All

**Portfolios:**

Councillor McCracken – Health, Social Care & Inclusion

**Summary of report**

This report summarises previous presentations and reports that have been presented to scrutiny in regards to the 2009/10 budget. This report also provides comments that will enable consideration of the resource planning documents and potentially aid recommendations to cabinet.

**Recommendations**

1. To consider the resource planning documents and graphs previously presented to scrutiny and make recommendations to cabinet as appropriate.
2. To request answers to questions that might arise from member scrutiny.
3. To request officers to provide any additional information to assist in achieving 1 and 2.

**Background papers**

Various financial working papers.

Resource Planning Documents (Meeting 28 September 2008)

Presentation and reports (Meeting 09 October 2008)

2008/09 Budget Books on Council's Internet and Intranet

**Reason for scrutiny**

To enable scrutiny of the budget 2009/10 and the resource planning position.



**Signed:** .....

**Chief Finance Officer:** James T Walsh

**Date:** 13 November 2008

**Resource and legal considerations**

Services were requested to complete resource planning templates by 4 August 2008. These documents recorded current level of resources by directorate. These were prepared by officers and reported to cabinet.

**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.

**Environmental impact**

None directly associated with this report.

**Performance management**

Performance management data is included within the resource planning documents.

**Equality Implications**

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

**Consultation**

A further meeting is scheduled for 19 January 2009 to consider the overall draft corporate revenue budget for 2009/10 and future years.

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## **1. SCRUTINY BUDGET ACTIVITY 2009/10 – 2011/12**

### **1.1 Resource Planning Documents**

At its meeting on 28 August 2008 the Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel noted the revised budget setting process for 2009/10 – 2011/12.

The first part of this process was to complete the resource planning document. These documents were completed by officers on 4 August 2008. These documents included information on objectives of the service, service priorities, key performance indicators, financial information from the past 3 years, key service cost drivers, demographics and looking at future pressures and opportunities.

Social Care and Inclusion produced two of these documents. The first covered Adult's Services and the second covered Strategic Housing. These documents were despatched for the meeting of 9 October 2008. At this meeting there was a short presentation to supplement the resource planning documents.

## **2. CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

2.1 The next stage of the budget process is for consideration of all the information provided to date and the opportunity to make recommendations to cabinet in respect of the 2009/10 – 2011/12 budget. Recommendations will be reported to cabinet at its meeting on 17 December 2008.

2.2 When looking at making recommendations, members may wish to have considered the following from the resource planning document:

- Does this service need to be provided? If so, is the current level appropriate or should it be increased/decreased?
- Does this service provide value for money?
- Is the service performing at an appropriate level given the level of investments/savings over recent budgets?
- What pressures and opportunities need to be considered in the 2009/10 – 2011/12 budget?
- Where should resources be prioritised/re-focused?

2.3 Key items to include in a recommendation:

- Which service area would this affect?
- Is this a saving or an investment?
- If an investment, where would funding come from and what benefits would this provide?
- If a saving, would this impact on service in anyway?
- What is the approximate value of this?
- Why does this need to be done? (E.g. Statutory need, improve performance, saving allows re-investment within other services, etc.)

### **3. NEXT STAGE OF THE BUDGET PROCESS**

- Chairs and Vice-Chairs of scrutiny panels will be invited to attend Corporate Scrutiny Decision Conferencing event on 12 December 2008
- A report summarising the recommendations of scrutiny panels will be presented to cabinet on 17 December 2008.
- Draft budget proposals will be reported to Scrutiny at its 19 January 2009 meeting. This will allow the panel to make further recommendations for the cabinet meeting on 4 February 2009.