

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: ALL SCRUTINY MEMBERS
DATE: OCTOBER 2007

BUDGET SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS 2007

Purpose

To inform Members of the proposals from the Scrutiny Working Group for scrutiny of the budget for 2008/09.

Report

At its meeting on 3 September 2007 the Scrutiny Working Group discussed and agreed proposals regarding the arrangements for Scrutiny of the 2008/09 budget.

As in previous years each Scrutiny and Performance Panel will meet during November to consider the draft budget for services within their remits. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel will continue to hold two 'Decision Conferences' firstly to consider the budget for corporate services and secondly, to consider the council's budget as a whole.

At the second Corporate Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel Decision Conference on 28 November 2007 the finance team will present all of the recommendations made by scrutiny so far and the resulting impact on council tax.

In addition to this existing arrangement the presentation will be followed by a representative from each of the other four scrutiny panels, probably the panel chair, who will outline the reasons for the individual panel's recommendations to aid the corporate panel in their consideration of the whole budget.

This allows each panel to gain an overview of the impact of their recommendations in the context of the whole budget and also an understanding of the issues as identified by other scrutiny panels. Following these representations being made the corporate services scrutiny panel shall consider and discuss their views regarding the budget and ultimately make their recommendations.

Whilst the corporate services scrutiny panel will make recommendations having received the views of the other scrutiny panels, all recommendations from all scrutiny panels will be reported to Cabinet on 19 December 2007 as currently occurs.

The Working Group also proposed that a Member representative from each Panel will present each Panel's recommendations to Cabinet on 19 December 2007.

Recommendations

That: (a) the approach to the scrutiny of the 2008/09 budget as proposed by the Scrutiny Working be adopted by the Health, Social Care and Inclusion scrutiny and performance panel;

(b) a representative of Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel be nominated to present the Panels budget recommendations to the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel Decision Conference on 28 November 2007;

and;

(c) a representative of Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel be nominated to present the Panels budget recommendations to Cabinet on 19 December 2007.

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