

NEIGHBOURHOOD SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

**Agenda
Item No. 4**

DATE: 4 DECEMBER 2008

DRAFT BUDGET 2009/10 – 2011/12

Ward(s) All

Portfolios:

- Councillor Walker - Environment
- Councillor Harrison – Leisure and Culture
- Councillor Harris – Transport
- Councillor Perry – Communities and Partnerships

Summary of report

This report summarises previous presentations and reports that have been presented to scrutiny in regards to the 2009/10 to 2011/12 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.

Background papers

- Various financial working papers.
- Resource Planning Documents (Meeting 4 September 2008)
- Summary information (Meeting 25 November 2008)
- 2008/09 Budget Book on the council's Internet and Intranet

Reason for scrutiny

To enable scrutiny of the budget 2009/10 to 2011/12 and the resource planning position.



Signed

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Chief Finance Officer – James T Walsh

Date: 24 November 2008

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

1.1 Resource Planning Documents

At its meeting on 17 July 2008 the Neighbourhoods 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 and include information on the objectives of the service, priorities, key performance indicators, financial information from the past 3 years, key service cost drivers, demographics and a look at future challenges and opportunities.

Information relating to Neighbourhoods was presented to the corporate panel at their 4 September meeting. In addition, there was a short presentation to supplement the resource planning documents. Panel received summary graphs of all services resource planning documents and a presentation of how to interpret the graphs was given at the meeting of 25 November 2008.

2. **CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

2.1 The next stage of the budget process is for consideration of the information provided to date and the opportunity for the panel to make proposals to cabinet in respect of the 2009/10 – 2011/12 budget in advance of receiving cabinet's own draft budget proposals. Proposals from the panel will be reported to cabinet at its meeting on 17 December 2008 for their consideration.

2.2 The process is aimed at allowing panels an opportunity to provide a steer to cabinet in what the panel itself would like to see reflected in the draft proposals. In formulating these, panel members may wish to have considered the following from the resource planning document:

- Does the service need to be provided?
- Can it be provided in a different way/ by someone else? i.e. is there an established external market
- Is the current standard/performance appropriate or should it be increased/decreased?
- Does this service provide value for money? Are resources effectively used?
- What opportunities may there be to improve performance/ reduce costs?
- Where should resources be prioritised/re-focused? Are they focussed in the correct place relative to other services?

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

- Chairs and Vice-Chairs of scrutiny panels have been invited to attend neighbourhood scrutiny decision conferencing event on 12 December 2008 to input their proposals.
- A report summarising the recommendations of scrutiny panels will be presented to cabinet on 17 December 2008.

- Cabinet's draft budget proposals will be reported to Scrutiny at its 22 January 2009 meeting. This will allow the panel to make recommendations on the detailed proposals.

Resource and legal considerations

Services were requested to complete resource planning templates by 4 August 2008. These documents provided significant detail on the services, including the current level of resources by directorate. These were prepared by officers and reported to scrutiny and cabinet.

Citizen impact

The budget is aligned with service activity within service plans across the council. Investment should be 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 its equal opportunities obligations.

Consultation

A further meeting is scheduled for 22 January 2009 to consider cabinet's detailed draft corporate revenue budget for 2009/10 and future years.

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