



Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: David Buckland, Director of Resources

Date: 12th November 2009

Open

Results of Budget Prioritisation Exercise

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Budget Review Panel has applied the Budget Prioritisation Model approved as part of the Financial Strategy 2009-2012, to the whole range of services that the Council delivers.
- 1.2 The results of this exercise attached at Appendix A, are to be recommended to the Cabinet as purely another piece of information to assist with the allocation of resources as part of the Financial Strategy 2010-2013. The Financial Strategy is scheduled to be presented to Cabinet on 22nd December 2009.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Budget Review Panel met on two occasions to undertake the evaluation exercise in determining all of the Council services whether:
 - The service is Statutory or Discretionary
 - The service is a Taxpayer priority
 - The service contributes towards the Council's Corporate aims and vision
- 2.2 It was recognised throughout the evaluation that even though a service is considered a statutory service, quite often such services are delivered in excess of the minimum requirements.
- 2.3 In relation to the assessment of Taxpayers priorities the Budget Consultation exercise along with the Place Survey were the two main pieces of evidence which were utilised. However, this evidence was supplemented with the views and opinions of the Councillors in their dealings with the general public.
- 2.4 The Panel then considered the contribution towards the Corporate Aims and Vision, building upon work which had previously been undertaken in mapping the Council services to these priorities.

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- 2.5 This exercise represents the completion of the first stage of the work of the Budget Review Panel in supporting the development of the Financial Strategy. The second phase will be examining the authorities approach to efficiency.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 It must be recognised that this exercise whilst a useful tool to assist in the decision making process, is only additional information. It is expected that the results of this process will influence the Financial Strategy, however, it does not represent the budget itself.

4. Options

- 4.1 The options available are as follows :
- Approve the results of the Budget Prioritisation Exercise, undertaken by the Budget Review Panel and recommend them for consideration by Cabinet: or
 - To amend the results of the Budget Prioritisation Exercise, and make recommendations to Cabinet

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Direct consultation was undertaken within the Budget Consultation exercise and the Place Survey, both of which have been used by the Budget Review Panel in their deliberations.
- 5.2 In addition consultation was undertaken in relation to the formation of the Council's Corporate Aims and Visions which were also used by the Budget Review Panel.

6. Related Decisions

- 6.1 This exercise has been undertaken in line with the Budget Timetable approved by Cabinet at the September 2009 meeting.

7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 7.1 The relevant Council Policies include the Corporate Aims and Vision, along with the Financial Strategy.

8. Implications

- 8.1 At this stage there are no direct implications arising from this exercise, although the results will help to inform the budget setting process

9. Equality Impact Needs Assessment

- 9.1 At this stage no Equality Impact Needs Assessments are required; however, all specific proposals will need to be considered as part of the Budget Process.

10. Wards affected

- 10.1 No specific wards are affected.

11. Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix A – Results of Budget Prioritisation Exercise.

12. Background Papers

- 12.1 Reports to Budget Review Panel – 14th October & 3rd November 2009.

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