



## **Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee Briefing Paper**

Report of: David Buckland, Director of Resources

Date: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Open

### **Recommendations from Budget Review Panel - Approach to Efficiency**

#### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The second stage of the work of the Budget Review Panel was to examine the Council's approach to efficiency and value for money. With ever increasing pressure upon the Council's resources it is vitally important that the Council maximises what it can achieve with such resources.
- 1.2 The Budget Review Panel were asked to consider, and amend where appropriate the draft approach which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Council already has in place a number of policies and strategies which are designed to increase the Council's value for money. These include:

- The Value for Money Policy
- The Procurement Strategy
- The Shared Service Strategy

- 2.2 The purpose of the approach to efficiency was to draw these strands together to provide the context of what the Council is endeavouring to achieve.

#### **3. Key Issues**

- 3.1 It is expected that the Council will receive a reduction in the funding that the Council receives from central government over the next few years. It is therefore vital that the Council delivers as cost effective and efficient services as possible to retain service provision.

#### **4. Recommendation to Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee**

To consider and make recommendations in relation to the draft Approach to Efficiency document as Appendix 1 of the Report to the Budget Review Panel.

**5. Consultation**

- 5.1 Within the Budget Consultation exercise 65% of the residents that responded stated that they believe that the Council delivers good or very good value for money. It is hoped that the measures taken to improve the Council's efficiency will improve this result.

**6. Related Decisions**

- 6.1 This exercise was 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 included 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 None.

**12. Background Papers**

- 12.1 Reports to Budget Review Panel – 14<sup>th</sup> October & 3 November 2009.  
12.2 Appendix to Report – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009

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