



Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: David Buckland, Director of Resources
Date: Thursday, 11th February 2010
Open

Recommendations from Budget Review Panel – Consideration of Financial Strategy 2010/2013 – Cabinet Proposals and Alternative Budget Proposals

1. Summary

- 1.1 To present the findings of the Budget Review Panel's scrutiny of the Cabinet's Financial Strategy 2010/2013 and alternative budget proposals from the Labour, Independent Community & Health Concern, Liberal/Liberal Democrat Groups.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 7th January the Panel scrutinised the Cabinet's proposed decision on the Financial Strategy 2010/2013, which included the Cabinet Proposals for 2010/2011 onwards and Income Service Options for 2010/2011. On 4th February 2010 the Panel scrutinised the alternative budget proposals from the Labour, Independent Community & Health Concern, Liberal/Liberal Democrat Groups.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 The Cabinet presented the Financial Strategy 2010/13 on 22 December 2009 and made it available for consultation.
- 3.2 The final recommendations on the budget will be made by Cabinet on 16 February 2010, and Council determines the budget on 24 February 2010.
- 3.3 The work of the Budget Review Panel during this year has concentrated upon prioritisation of Council services and steps to increase efficiency. This work assisted with the formation of the Financial Strategy 2010/13.
- 3.4 At the meeting of the Budget Review Panel on 4 February 2010 Group Leaders presented alternative budget proposals to the Financial 2010/13, these will be considered by Cabinet on 16 February 2010.

- 4. Recommendations to Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee:**
 - 4.1 The Budget Review Panel, having considered the Cabinet proposals, Income Service Options and amendments from the Labour Group, refer all items to the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration.**
 - 4.2 The Budget Review Panel, having considered the Cabinet proposals, Income Service Options and amendments from the Independent Community & Health Concern Group, refer all items to the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration.**
 - 4.3 The Budget Review Panel, having considered the Cabinet proposals, Income Service Options and amendments from the Liberal and Liberal Democrat Groups, refer all items to the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration.**
- 5. Consultation**
 - 5.1 This process represents the consultation with the opposition groups on the Financial Strategy 2010/13. There is also a separate budget consultation exercise underway with the public and staff.
- 6. Related Decisions**
 - 6.1 The budget process sets the resources to deliver the Council's Corporate Plan and determines the business plans for the year ahead.
- 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

Record of the Budget Review Panel's budget scrutiny.

Cabinet's proposed recommendations on the Financial Strategy 2010/2013, from its 18th December 2009 meeting.

Labour Party Alternative Budget Proposals.

Independent Community & Health Concern Party Alternative Budget Proposals.

Liberal & Liberal Democrat Parties Alternative Budget Proposals.

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