

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 3
6 JANUARY 2010	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Contact Officer – Louise Tyers, Scrutiny Manager

Contact Details – (01733) 452284 or email louise.tyers@peterborough.gov.uk

SCRUTINY OF THE BUDGET 2010/11 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN TO 2014/15

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report to advise the Committee on how scrutiny of the budget 2010/11 and the Medium Term Financial Plan to 2014/15 will be undertaken.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee scrutinises the proposals for the budget 2010/11 and Medium Term Financial Plan to 2014/15 including seeking the views of the other scrutiny committees and commissions.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 3.1 The budget provides the resources to meet the targets and aspirations of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The proposed budget 2010/11 and Medium Term Financial Plan to 2014/15 was presented to the Cabinet on 14 December 2009 and copies of the proposals have been sent to all members of the Council. Cabinet resolved that the proposed budget now be consulted upon.
- 4.2 A briefing on the budget for Members will be held in the Council Chamber at 6pm this evening.
- 4.3 Members are requested to bring their copy of the budget papers (previously circulated to all members of the Council) to this meeting.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 It is within the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference to receive and consider the Executive's annual budget proposals and to make any recommendations.
- 5.2 In previous years each of the scrutiny committees considered the relevant parts of the budget proposals and made comments individually. As the remit is now within one committee, a new approach is being taken to scrutinise this important issue. Undertaking scrutiny of the budget in this way will enable the budget to be looked at as a whole rather than as individual parts. This will lead to better understanding of where one part of the budget may have an impact on another part.
- 5.3 Meetings of the Committee will be held this evening and on Thursday 14 January to undertake this scrutiny.

These two sessions will scrutinise the individual elements of the budget during specific slots. The relevant Cabinet Members, Directors and relevant scrutiny committee/commission have been invited to attend. Themed scrutiny will be undertaken aligned to the terms of reference of each scrutiny committee/commission and relevant recommendations will be agreed at the end of each session and the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee will then agree the final submission to the Cabinet.

5.4 A briefing session on the budget will be held for all members prior to this meeting at 6pm.

5.5 Tonight's meeting will look at the aspects of the budget in relation to the following areas:

- Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee
- Scrutiny Commission for Health Issues
- Overall financial plans and Council Tax level

5.6 The meeting on 14 January will consider the following aspects:

- Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities
- Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee
- Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee
- Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee (operational issues)
- Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee agrees the final submission to the Cabinet

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 As set out in the report to Cabinet on 14 December 2009.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 This report forms part of the process leading to the setting of the budget in February 2010.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 Any comments and recommendations on the proposed budget will be report to the meeting of Cabinet on 8 February 2010 prior to a recommendation being made to full Council on 24 February.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 As set out in the report to Cabinet – 14 December 2009

10. APPENDICES

10.1 None