



**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND
COMMISSIONS
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER- TOWN HALL
ON 6 FEBRUARY 2013**

- Present:** Councillors J Peach (Chairman), N Arculus, G Casey, S Day, M Harper, P Kreling, D Lamb, D McKean, Nadeem, G Nawaz, B Rush, D Sanders, J Stokes, JA Fox, JR Fox, D Harrington, B Saltmarsh, L Forbes, J Johnson, Shabbir, N Thulbourn, Jamil, N Sandford
- Also Present:** Councillor M Lee, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning
Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Councillor Holdich, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University
Councillor Fitzgerald, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Councillor P Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning
Councillor M Dalton, Cabinet Member for Communications
Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources
Councillor Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Safety
Councillor J Goodwin, Cabinet Advisor for the Leader (Business Engagement, Tourism and International Links)
Councillor N North, Cabinet Advisor to the Leader (Environment Capital)
- Officers Present:** Gillian Beasley, Chief Executive
Paul Phillipson, Executive Director for Operations
Terry Rich, Director for Adult Social Services
Sue Westcott, Executive Director for Children's Services
John Harrison, Executive Director for Strategic Resources
Steven Pilsworth, Head of Corporate Services
Vicky Palazon, Financial Services Manager – Planning and Reporting
Jonathan Lewis, Assistant Director, Education and Resources
Amanda Rose, Acting Communications Manager
Paulina Ford, Senior Governance Officer, Scrutiny

Appointment of Chair

The Chairman had sent her apologies for the meeting and in accordance with Part 4, Section 9, Paragraph 17 of the Constitution the appointment of a Chairman should be appointed from the Chairman of the other Committees/Commission who were present at the meeting. Those Chairmen present were Councillor Rush, Day and Peach. The

Senior Governance Officer asked for nominations. Councillor Peach was nominated by Councillor Rush and seconded by Councillor Kreling. Members of the Committee present voted in favour of the appointment and Councillor Peach was therefore appointed Chairman for the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Maqbool, Over, Todd, Allen, Sharp, Ash, Martin, Murphy, Shabbir, Shearman, Sylvester and Fower. Councillor Jamil attended as substitute for Councillor Murphy. Apologies for absence were also received from Councillor Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Economic Development, Business Engagement and Environment Capital and Dr Andy Liggins, Director for Public Health.

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

Councillor JR Fox declared an interest in that he was a member of the Peterborough Council of Voluntary Services.

3. Budget 2013/14 and Medium Term Financial Plan to 2022/23

The Chair welcomed everyone present and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for all Members of each Scrutiny Committee and Commission to scrutinise the 2013/14 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan to 2022/23 as part of the formal consultation process before being presented to Cabinet for approval on 25 February 2013.

Members were given an overview of the Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget by the Cabinet Member for Resources. The following key points were highlighted:

- Overview and overall budget strategy
- Detailed proposals for:
 - Adult Social Care
 - Chief Executive's
 - Children's services
 - Operations
 - Strategic Resources (inc. Strategic Commissioning)
 - Public Health
 - Staff Implications
 - Capital Strategy, Asset Management Plan and Treasury Strategy
- Priorities
- Spending Review – Year 3
- Pressures and Investment
- Overall financial position
- Tackling the financial gap
- Income
- Implications for council tax
- Reserves, balances and risk
- Consultation meetings timetable and next steps

Each section of the budget was then taken in order according to how it was presented in the Budget Book. A brief introduction was given by the relevant Cabinet Member for each section before taking questions from the Committee.

Questions and observations were made around the following areas:

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
<p>Item 4</p> <p>Introduction of the Budget and Overall Budget Strategy</p>	<p>Would the Cabinet like to comment on temporarily reducing the level of £6M in Reserves? This might then alleviate the level of expenditure cuts.</p>	<p>If the reserves were used it would be a 'one off'. Reserves might be used to ease in certain cuts. However this would mean that if there were pressures in the future the council would not be in such a strong position to deal with them.</p> <p>Under the new funding regime it could be argued that more than £6m would be required for reserves. If a decision was taken to use some of the reserves there would have to be a plan in place to quickly get the reserves back to £6m. This would mean adding to the pain of the financial recovery in 2014/2015. The £6m reserve should not be taken below that figure for any longer than a two year period.</p>
	<p>The Capacity Building Reserve would seem to be covering the same eventualities as the General Fund. Could the Capacity Building Reserve be included in the General Fund which would mean that the £981k could come out of the General Reserve Budget?</p>	<p>The General Fund and Capacity Building Fund were two different funds. Capacity Building included such things as redundancy costs. The General Fund was used for risks that were run throughout the year.</p> <p>The funds could be rolled together into the £6m had it not been for the fact that the fund had been used every year to significantly deal with staffing reductions and redundancies to meet the budget. The Capacity Building Fund was the lowest it had ever been.</p>
	<p>Currently the estimated balance is £981k which was being reduced to £622k in one year. This would indicate that it was too high</p>	<p>If the timetable slips whilst the services are being transformed then all of the savings may not be achievable in this financial year. It was a balancing act and the reserves have been kept at a practical level. Cabinet feel that reducing the level of reserves could not be considered until more of the transformation programme had been delivered. The Capacity Building Fund was an active fund</p>

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
	if you are only going to spend £359k on Capacity Building this year.	being used every year.
	<p>What did the external Auditors feel about last year's budget regarding the amount of reserves?</p> <p>Were Cabinet aware of any big changes coming up that would either positively or negatively affect the Auditors view from last year?</p>	<p>The Director of Strategic Resources advised that in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 the Section 151 Officer had the responsibility to advise the Council on the adequacy of the reserves and balances every year as part of the budget. The auditors would not take a view on the adequacy of the Section 151 Officers advice unless they believed the council's budget was not in a good position. They would look at how the council manage the budget and if it was set well.</p>
	Has the budget taken into account the recent Census data?	Extra funding had been received from the Government as an outcome of the recent Census information. This money had been put into certain areas like providing school places.
Recommendation	The Committee recommend that Cabinet note the position on the this years budget but are mindful that more work needs to be done on next years budget to bring in the required savings in anticipation of a zero increase in 2014/15 council tax.	
<p>Item 5</p> <p>Appendix 1</p> <p>Adult Social Care and related Capital Programme</p>	Voluntary Services will have to step in to fill the gap in services provided. How much work has been done to put in a framework to deliver this. Will it be in place for 1 April?	The budget had also covered investment. A lot of investment had been put into the 3 rd Sector and voluntary services like Age Concern and the Alzheimer's Society. Officers were currently discussing the proposals and how the council might provide financial support. The market place would be about the council sign posting people to the support they needed. The authority would also have a duty to provide support to self funders.

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
	Can you explain why you are proposing to reduce the number of Learning disability day care centres?	The service will be reviewed to see if it is serving the needs of the service users and to see if there was a better way of delivering the service. The savings in the budget book may not mean cuts but it may mean service changes and doing things in a different way.
	Some Members requested that the budget book show the previous year's budget figures to make a comparison.	The Cabinet Member for Strategic Resources advised Members that a representative from the BBC had commented that the council's budget book was one of the clearest budget documents he had seen. The Cabinet Member commented that he would be happy to consider any further improvements to the presentation.
	Would the proposed £50k savings on Client transport service include a cut back in the Community Link service?	The Community Link service would be looked at as part of the bus services review.
	What were the results of the consultation on the Change in Eligibility Criteria and had they been reflected in the budget.	The consultation was still ongoing. Current feed back showed that there had been 1000 responses so far. Members were assured that no one would be left in a position where they would be at risk. There would however be some people that would no longer be eligible for support.
	The budget states that there will be an increase in the cost of the home meals service by 60% from £3.20 to £5.20. Had an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out to assess the impact of this increase?	An assessment had taken place on the impact of the proposed changes and this would be reported to Cabinet.

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
ACTION	The Committee noted this section of the budget.	
Item 6 Appendix 2 Chief Executives and related Capital Programme	<p>The cost of disposals in this years budget will be £1,335m which was significantly higher than the budget for the future. Could you explain this and if there are any additional costs anticipated this year.</p>	<p>Members were referred to the detailed disposal schedule in the budget book which gave a breakdown of all the disposals for each year listed.</p> <p>The cost of disposals would cover such things as marketing literature and professional fees. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Resources agreed to provide a breakdown of what the costs included outside of the meeting. The more property disposed of the more costs would be incurred. The size of the disposal would also dictate the cost e.g. an asset valued at £5m would cost more to dispose of compared to an asset of £100k.</p>
	<p>Why were the council increasing the number of copies of 'Your Peterborough' from two to four editions a year? Had discussions taken place with the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) on the advisability of increasing publications?</p>	<p>The Cabinet had felt it appropriate to provide four editions of 'Your Peterborough' and had taken into account the CLG guidance on how many publications to produce. There would be a focus on increasing the amount of sponsorship in the publication to offset the cost of producing it.</p>
	<p>Members requested that more mention should be made in the publication about the Scrutiny function of the council and it should be more politically balanced.</p>	<p>Members were reminded that the last edition of 'Your Peterborough' had included a guide to the functions of the Council which gave mention to Scrutiny. Further mention to the role of Scrutiny could be published in a future edition. The job of the publication was to give local people clear and factual information on what the council is doing and what the strategic direction of the council was which was set by the Conservative administration.</p>

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
	Members noted that the Capital Programme Budget had identified £1158K for Crematorium and Cemetery Development in 2013/2014 but there was no further mention of funding after that year. Did this mean that a site had been identified?	The search for a site that was appropriate and would last for many decades continued. The money identified in the budget was there to enable the work to continue and put in the first level of infrastructure when a site had been found.
ACTION	The Committee noted this section of the budget and requested that the Cabinet Member for Resources provide the Committee with a detailed breakdown of the cost of disposals.	
Item 7 Appendix 3 Children's Services and related Capital Programme	Children's Centres. Could the Cabinet Member advise if the contracts with the organisations that took on the running of the Children's Centres contained any penalties for any closures?	Any changes to contracts would need to be discussed with the two firms that were awarded the contracts and would be part of the review.
	How many children use the play centres in a week and which ones are the best used.	The sessions and numbers provided for December were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chatteris 4 sessions 160 children in total. • Paston 10 sessions 190 children • Chestnuts 3 sessions 34 children • Crofts corner. 10 sessions 105 children • The Spinney. 6 sessions 46 children • Thistle Drive 6 sessions 102 children • The Tunnel. 3 sessions 67 children

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
		<p>Members were advised that whilst play did provide some support to families it did not target the support to the most vulnerable children in need. The resources needed to be targeted to meet those needs.</p> <p>Members were reminded that Peterborough was one of very few Councils to provide a free play service and indeed the only one in the East of England. In addition Government was looking to focus funding on childcare places, Troubled Families.</p>
	<p>Why was the funding allocation for Eye Primary School showing a reduction of 2.9% for 2013/14 when the school had an increase of 20 pupils next year?</p>	<p>The Government had changed the funding mechanisms for schools from 2013/14 and had now imposed a national formula. Previously it had been locally set allowing the local authority to reflect changes to the demographic profile and growth of Peterborough. The new formula meant that some schools would be winners and some would be losers. The Local Authority would work with those schools to help them put in strategies for improvement within the resources available.</p>
	<p>Members were concerned that the school transport budget had been increased but the general transport budget had been cut. Had the Cabinet looked at every opportunity to integrate school transport with general transport?</p>	<p>The school transport issue was continually being looked at with regard to integrating it into the general transport system. There were over 100 providers of school transport and this needed to be cut down to one provider. This could not be done until the contracts had come to an end which would be next year. The increase in budget also reflected an increase in provision for special needs children and transport outside of the catchment area.</p>
<p>ACTION</p>	<p>The Committee noted this section of the budget.</p>	

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
<p>Item 8</p> <p>Appendix 4</p> <p>Operations related Programme and Capital</p>	<p>Members wanted to know what the Repair Assistance budget of £1,020k in the Capital Programme Budget covered.</p>	<p>This Repair Assistance covered the Care and Repair service which was directly aligned to Adult Social Care and covered maintaining people in their own homes and providing adaptations for the elderly, vulnerable and disabled. This work ultimately saved the authority money. The disabled Facility Grant of £1,400k was also managed by the Care and Repair team.</p>
	<p>Could the Repair Assistance grant be reduced?</p>	<p>The Care and Repair Service had already been reviewed for efficiency and effectiveness and had been bench marked against other authorities. The work that this team do has been held up as exemplary and also provides a great deal of support to enable people to remain in their own homes. If the budget were to be reduced the council would not be able to deliver the same service to the community.</p>
	<p>Members were concerned at the 50% reduction in funding proposed for subsidised bus routes. This reduction would affect most bus routes after the hours of 8.30pm and Members were concerned that these bus services would be lost.</p>	<p>Members were advised that it was unknown what services the commercial operators would be willing to provide going forward. The Authority would be talking to the operators to discuss which services were being heavily subsidised and what funding the authority could provide. It would be a decision for the operators to take concerning those services which would be commercially viable to run. As part of the bus services review all of the routes after 8.30pm would be reviewed taking into consideration passenger usage. All Members comments will be taken into account as part of the review.</p>
	<p>The budget indicates a proposed spend of £1.6m to cover an increase in costs of £535k to provide the Local Link service provided by Enterprise. This would be a 100% increase in the subsidy. What financial</p>	<p>The Local Link Services were part of the depot before Enterprise took over that element of work. This transport area was transferred at an agreed price similar to the price it had been costing as an in house service. The cost however was not equal to what it was going to cost but Enterprise agreed to accept this loss as part of the overall contract. As the contact comes to an end they are willing to retender but the cost would go up. An independent evaluation had found that the new cost was accurate.</p>

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
	management is being provided regarding this?	
	<p>Was Cabinet committed to stopping Neighbourhood Committees and if so how the Localism Agenda would be delivered.</p> <p>How will you achieve the good service that the neighbourhood Management team provided if the service is scaled back?</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Management team will be encouraged to have a far stronger ward councillor relationship. All members will have a dedicated officer interface for each respective area (ward or Parish). The Neighbourhoods team were restructuring the service and this would include an officer / member interface.</p> <p>Some of the Neighbourhood Committees had very little attendance and were not attracting new people and new ideas. All members would still have the Scrutiny Committee procedure to look at all aspects of services.</p>
	<p>The budget shows a proposed funding for a £1m replacement of street lighting project which would be carried forward over the next five years. Was this work urgent or could it be postponed.</p>	<p>The work proposed was essential work. The street lighting structures had been up for many years and were now in need of repair and replacement. Some street lighting no longer worked and some were unsafe. To replace them it also meant replacing the cabling under the ground which would mean closing down parkways and additional staff to undertake the work.</p>
	<p>The £2m expenditure on Long Causeway and Broadway. Was this necessary in the economic climate.</p>	<p>The city centre improvements were essential. If no investment took place the city centre would die and the economic investment would stop. The MJ magazine had recently published some very positive articles on Peterborough and the work being done in the city and had listed Peterborough as one of the top ten economic performers.</p>

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
	<p>Members sought clarification on whether the Community Leadership Fund was reduced for one year only.</p>	<p>Members were advised that the reduction had been proposed for one year only but Cabinet would consider extending that at the next budget discussion for future years.</p>
	<p>Under Highways works there was a listing for David's Lane / Staniland Way, Werrington – safety junction improvements. When was the works going to start?</p>	<p>The Tesco planning application had been approved some time ago and was valid for three years. Tesco would need to put the safety junction improvements in place before they could start building. There was however no indication of when that would be.</p>
	<p>Councillor Sandford put forward a recommendation that a Review of the Bus Services be carried out before a decision was made to reduce the funding to subsidised bus services. Members requested that Scrutiny should be included in the review of bus services.</p>	<p>The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning informed Members that services could not be cut until a full review had taken place and the outcome of the review would determine if there would be a reduction in funding to subsidised bus services. The outcome of the review would go to scrutiny.</p>
<p>ACTION</p>	<p>The Committee noted this section of the budget and requested that the wording in the budget book for “removal of parkway lighting” be replaced by the wording “replacement of parkway lighting”.</p>	

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
<p>Item 9</p> <p>Appendix 5</p> <p>Strategic Resources including Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships and related Capital Programme</p>	<p>Energy and Waste Projects. Could the Cabinet member explain how the budget figures in the MTFS proposals were worked out for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar energy • Wind and Solar energy <p>Do the figures include the income that would be received from the three council owned agricultural sites which is covered in the planning application that still has to be passed.</p>	<p>Members were informed that the budget was split into two parts: the Capital Financing Costs and the income. The Medium Term Financial plan included what was approved at Cabinet in November. The first couple of years would not generate significant profit and it was not until years 2015/2016 that there would be a profit.</p> <p>Members were informed that the figures did include the income from the agricultural land if the planning permission were to be approved.</p>
	<p>The libraries have recently been reviewed and the opening hours had been reduced. Why is there a proposal to review them again?</p>	<p>The review of library opening hours took place two years ago and during that consultation process the council reduced the savings that had been proposed. The council has therefore proposed to make further savings and reduce the spend on libraries of £200K. £150K would be from the reduction in the library opening hours and £50K would be from the library book fund. Running in parallel to the budget consultation was a public consultation which was being run by Vivacity with library users at Central, Bretton, Orton and Werrington libraries. Their views were being sought on a proposed reduction in opening hours and how that would best suit local users.</p>
	<p>Could you explain what the figure of minus £488k was in relation to Waste 2020 costs / savings for 2013/14? When will the facility break</p>	<p>The contract was signed last Friday and the plant would come on line in 2015. It will be an electricity generating plant and from 2015 onwards would provide an income to the council. The information on detailed costs and break even had been issued on various occasions and could be issued to Members again.</p>

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
	<p>even? Is the positive figure of £502k in 2015/16 just including the income of electricity sales or does it also include the revenue costs.</p>	
	<p>In the current year Enterprise were required to make a budget saving of just over £100k. Did Enterprise achieve that saving?</p>	<p>The savings had not been implemented. This was due to the exceptional wet weather which had hindered the delivery of the grass cutting service.</p> <p>The year ahead proposes additional investment in street cleansing, along with meeting the costs of a growing city, including bin collections at new houses.</p>
	<p>Some Members noted that there was a proposed increase in the amount to be paid to Enterprise of £245k and felt that it could be better spent on other services areas where there had been massive cuts.</p>	<p>Members were informed that Cabinet valued the appearance of the city and it was also what residents wanted.</p> <p>The Enterprise contract was saving the council £M's. Cabinet had taken a balanced view with regard to the budget for Enterprise and taken into account the priorities of the residents of Peterborough.</p>
	<p>Could the relevant Cabinet Member explain the methodology behind the capital asset disposal strategy and how the various items were prioritised?</p>	<p>The Asset Management Plan set out the strategy for managing the portfolio. This was listed in the budget book on pages 109 to 111.</p> <p>An in-depth review of 20% of the council's assets was carried out every five years and then updated each year.</p>

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
ACTION	The Committee noted this section of the budget and requested that the Executive Director for Strategic Resources provide a further copy of the detailed breakdown of costings including the break even point of the Waste 2020 project.	
Item 10 Appendix 6 Public Health	There were no questions or comments regarding this section.	
ACTION	The Committee noted this section of the budget.	
Item 11 Appendix 7 Staff Implications	Members were concerned about the proposal to remove sickness pay for the first three days and wanted to know if an impact assessment had been completed. There was concern that if people attended work with contagious illnesses like the Novo virus then even more people would become sick and therefore the financial implications on the council would increase.	The Cabinet member for Community Cohesion and Safety informed Members that the proposal would be discussed with Union representatives and all opinions would be taken into account before a final decision was made.
ACTION	The Committee noted this section of the budget.	
Item 12 Appendix 8	Treasury Management Strategy:	Members were advised that there were some big projects coming up like the Energy from Waste Plant and the Renewables Scheme. The Renewables Scheme would increase the repayments on capital but would also bring income

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
<p>Capital Programme Overview</p> <p>Treasury Management Strategy</p> <p>Capital Strategy 2013 – 2023</p>	<p>Members requested an explanation in the movement in Capital Finance requirement from £19.6m in 2011/2012 and escalating to £203.6m in 2013/2014.</p>	<p>revenue into the council. This should be balanced against the figures quoted for the Capital Finance requirement.</p> <p>Over the life of the Energy from Waste contract which was an expensive item there would be a saving on average of approximately £1m a year over the whole thirty years based on current projections.</p> <p>With less funding from the Government there was also a need to spend significant sums of money on providing school places which meant borrowing more money.</p>
<p>Asset Management Plan 2013 – 2023</p>	<p>Would it be appropriate to revert back to the equal instalments method of meeting the capital payments under the Medium Revenue Provision? Was the annuity method of payment more expensive than the equal instalments method?</p>	<p>Under the annuity method the costs were spread more evenly over the cost of the project so over all those costs could be higher if simply looking at the whole life costs. Under a net present value basis it could be a better option. A range of factors had been taken into account when choosing this method. Detailed information was issued around this for Full Council when discussing last years budget papers and could be issued to Members again.</p>
	<p>Members were concerned that the Energy from Waste and Renewables project would have a massive drain on the council's finances.</p>	<p>Members were informed that the project would be paid in stages and not in one lump sum.</p>
	<p>Members sought an explanation for the % of Gross Debt to CFR figures rising from 74.5% in</p>	<p>The council borrows to finance its capital programme therefore the loans and borrowing taken out would match the capital financing requirement. However the council looked to balance the cash flow by using any money coming in before borrowing. Most of the time the actual debt held would be less than the Capital</p>

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
	2011/2012 to 92.5% in 2022/23.	Financing requirement and would keep that ratio as low as possible but at some stage it would catch up. This trend was reflected in the figures quoted.
	Would the figures quoted for gross debt and capital financing requirement limit future capital spending and future capital borrowing.	Capital Spend is limited by the Capital Programme approved by Full Council and this determined how much was spent.
ACTION	The Committee noted this section of the budget and requested that the Head of Corporate Services provide details of the Equal Instalments method of repayment versus the Annuity Method of repayment and the rationale for choosing the Annuity Method of repayment.	
Item 13 General Comments and overall recommendations	Council Tax rises and the justification behind it was talked about extensively last year. What has changed as a strategy from last year to this year for the proposal to be made not to increase Council Tax this year?	There had been a better settlement from Government than was expected , many residents had seen real terms reductions in income and Cabinet felt that an increase in Council Tax should not be implemented this year. The poorest people in the community were going to have to find a little more to pay towards the Council Tax and middle income families would also be affected. Taking all of this into account the decision was made not to increase Council Tax. Cabinet had taken the approach of providing a balanced budget. Cabinet would keep an open mind on the feedback from the consultation process regarding tax freeze. The Government Policy on Council Tax was different this year to last year.
RECOMMENDATION	Councillor Arculus seconded by Councillor McKean recommended that The Prudential Indicators should be reviewed by Cabinet and the Medium Revenue Provision Methodology reassessed. The recommendation was put to the vote and approved. (14 in favour, none against, 9 abstained)	

Budget Section	Question / Comment	Response
RECOMMENDATION		<p>Councillor McKean seconded by Councillor Arculus recommended that next years budget book contain for each of the tables a section showing the previous years budget figures including Y.T.D. and predicted end of year spend with accruals.</p> <p>The recommendation was put to the vote and approved.</p> <p>(9 in favour, 4 against, 9 abstained)</p>

The Chair thanked all members of the Scrutiny Committee and Commissions for attending the meeting and the Cabinet Members and Directors for attending and responding to the questions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends that:

1. All comments made at this meeting to be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration at their meeting on 25 February 2013.
2. Cabinet to note the position on this years budget but are mindful that more work needs to be done on next years budget to bring in the required savings in anticipation of a zero increase in 2014/15 council tax.
3. Cabinet to review the Prudential Indicators and that the Medium Revenue Provision Methodology be reassessed.
4. Cabinet to include in next years budget book for each of the tables a section showing the previous years budget figures including Y.T.D. and predicted end of year spend with accruals.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Committee requested that:

1. The wording in the budget book for "removal of parkway lighting" to be replaced by the wording "replacement of parkway lighting".
2. The Executive Director for Strategic Resources provide a further copy of the detailed breakdown of costings including the break even point of the Waste 2020 project for Members of the Scrutiny Committee/Commissions.
3. The Cabinet Member for Resources provides the Committee with a detailed breakdown of the cost of disposals.
4. The Head of Corporate Services provide details of the Equal Instalments method of repayment versus the Annuity Method of repayment and the rationale for choosing the Annuity Method of repayment.

CHAIRMAN 6.00 - 9.35 pm