

<b>ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 5</b>
<b>14 JANUARY 2010</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Solicitor to the Council**

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### **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 was held for Members on 6 January 2010 and the first meeting of the Committee's scrutiny of the budget was held following that meeting. The first meeting looked at the budget as it related to the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Commission for Health Issues. It was looked at the overall strategy for the budget.
- 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 makes 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 parts of the budget may have an impact on other parts.

- 5.3 Two meetings of the Committee are being held. The first was held on 6 January and the final meeting will be this evening.

These two sessions will scrutinise the individual elements of the budget during specific slots. The relevant Cabinet Members, Directors and relevant scrutiny committee/commission will be invited to attend. Themed scrutiny will then be undertaken aligned to the terms of reference of each scrutiny committee/commission. 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 The meeting on 6 January looked at the following areas of the budget:

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

- 5.5 Tonight's meeting will consider the following aspects:

- Scrutiny Commission for Rural Issues
- Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee, including the Asset Management Plan
- Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee
- Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee (operational issues), including the Local Transport Plan Capital Programme

## **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