
Meeting: Executive

Date: 11 January 2011

Subject: Response from Overview & Scrutiny to the
Supplementary Savings Proposals Contained within the
Corporate Budget Strategy

Report of: The Chairmen of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees

Summary: The report provides the Executive with comments made by the Council's four Overview & Scrutiny Committees during their examination of the supplementary savings proposals outlined in the Executive's Corporate Budget Strategy update dated 7 December 2010.

Advising Officer: Ian Porter, Assistant Director of Strategy & Performance

Contact Officer: Jonathon Partridge, Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Executive

Key Decision No

**Reason for urgency/
exemption from call-in
(if appropriate)** n/a

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The report sets out comments designed to help the Council respond to the financial challenges facing the public sector as a whole but, at the same time, enable it to deliver on its priorities.

Financial:

The supplementary savings proposals contribute to the Council's overall approach to ensuring a balanced budget for 2011/12.

Legal:

n/a

Risk Management:

In order to achieve a balanced budget for 2011/12 compensatory savings proposals may be required should any of the initial or supplementary proposals not be agreed.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

A number of the savings proposals impact on the staffing structures of the Council.

Equalities/Human Rights:

n/a

Community Safety:

n/a

Sustainability:

n/a

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. that the Executive considers and responds to the comments and recommendations of Overview & Scrutiny regarding the supplementary savings proposals contained within the Corporate Budget Strategy update, as set out in Appendices A to D of this report**

<i>Reason for Recommendation(s):</i>	<i>So that the Executive can take account of the comments and recommendations made by Overview & Scrutiny before it makes final recommendations to Council regarding the supplementary savings proposals outlined within its Corporate Budget Strategy report.</i>
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1. As Members will be aware, at its meeting of 2 November 2010, the Executive considered the report of its Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance & People regarding the Council's Corporate Budget Strategy. The report set out the Council's response to the Coalition Government's emerging policies and put forward proposals for managing expenditure to address the expected funding reductions.
2. The Executive endorsed the strategic response, proposed outcomes and direction of travel contained within the report and noted the efficiency proposals outlined in Appendix A. It also invited Overview & Scrutiny to comment on the service reconfiguration and reduction savings proposals detailed in Appendix B (as amended).
3. At its meeting on 7 December 2010 the Executive received an update on the Corporate Budget Strategy that outlined the overall funding gap for 2011/12 had increased by £6.2m than that reported in November. This increase in the overall funding gap reflected the announcements of the Government's spending review and the expected reduction in funding for local authorities.

4. On 7 December 2010 the Executive acknowledged the additional challenges facing the Council and considered additional savings that amounted to a further £8.3m for 2011/12. The Executive invited the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and other stakeholders to comment on these supplementary savings proposals.
5. This report captures those comments and associated recommendations (at appendices A to D), all of which were made and agreed during the December cycle of Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings.
6. The Executive is therefore invited to consider and respond to these comments and recommendations before making final recommendations to Council regarding the savings proposed.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Customer & Central Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee Comments

Appendix B – Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee Comments

Appendix C – Social Care, Health & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee Comments

Appendix D – Children’s Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee Comments

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

- Corporate Budget Strategy report presented to the Executive at its meeting on 2 November 2010
- Corporate Budget Strategy Update presented to the Executive at its meeting on 7 December 2010

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands