
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2010

**EX.214/10 BUDGET 2011/12 – FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY PANELS ON THE EXECUTIVE’S BUDGET
DELIBERATIONS**
(Key Decision)

Portfolio Governance and Resources

Subject Matter

The Minutes of the meetings of the following Overview and Scrutiny Panels relating to the Budget reports considered by the Executive on 22 November 2010 were submitted:

- (a) Community - 25 November 2010 (COSP.91/10)
- (b) Environment and Economy - 2 December 2010 (EEOSP.82/10)
- (c) Resources - 7 December 2010 (ROSP.104/10 - 113/10)

Copies of the above Minute Excerpts had been circulated.

The Chairmen of the respective Overview and Scrutiny Panels had been invited to speak at the meeting.

The Leader informed Members that the Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had submitted apologies, but the Panel's comments as set out in the Minutes would be taken into account as part of the Executive's deliberations on the budget.

The Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel was present at the meeting and outlined the debate, commenting that the Minutes were self explanatory. The Panel had raised a number of questions around areas where shortfalls were expected and had received satisfactory responses in relation thereto. She highlighted in some detail the Panel's comments on planning charges, parking and purple sacks, details of which were set out in Minute EEOSP.82/10.

In response, the Local Environment Portfolio Holder said that the budget had been discussed in detail at the Panel meeting and accepted in the main. He noted that the Panel had voted in favour of the status quo being maintained with regard to the provision of purple sacks to residents, adding that the issue was under review. However, difficult decisions required to be taken in the current economic climate.

The Chairman of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel presented the Minutes of the Panel on 7 December 2010 highlighting, in particular, the comments and resolutions with regard to purple sacks; the expenditure of £1.9m on Caldew Riverside and the request for an update on the agreement between the authority and Lovells with regard to the work at Raffles as detailed in the Minutes.

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder had attended two of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel meetings when careful consideration had been given to the budget. He gave an assurance that due consideration would be given to the sentiments expressed by Overview and Scrutiny Members and the Executive would address areas where further explanation was required.

The Portfolio Holder added that the provision of purple sacks, which cost the Council £30,000 per annum, could be revisited, but clearly if that saving was not made the money would have to be saved elsewhere which may prove to be less savoury. He reiterated the extremely difficult financial situation faced by the City Council, adding that the Executive would take on board the comments expressed and try to find a way to present a budget resolution which the majority of Members could support.

The Leader advised that the Executive would take on board the comments made by the three Overview and Scrutiny Panels when considering and formulating its budget proposals for 2011/12.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Overview and Scrutiny Panels be thanked for their consideration of the Budget reports and their comments, as detailed within the Minutes submitted, taken into account as part of the Executive's deliberations on the 2011/12 budget.

Reasons for Decision

The views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels will be taken into account as part of the 2011/12 Budget process.