

Agenda Item A.2(a)



RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Panel Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 4th December 2012

Title: Overview Report and Work Programme

Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Report reference: OS 34/12

Summary:

This report provides an overview of matters related to the Resources O&S Panel's work. It also includes the latest version of the work programme.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to:

- Decide whether the items on the Leader's Forward Plan should be included in the Panel's Work Programme for consideration. (para 1 & Appendix 1)
- Note and/or amend the Panel's work programme (Appendix 3)

Contact Officer: Nicola Edwards

Ext: 7122

1. Notice of Key Executive Decisions

The most recent Notice of Key Executive Decisions was published on 1st October 2012. The following issues fall into the remit of this Panel and full details are attached at **Appendix 1**:

KD.029/12 Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust Business Plan 2013/14 – *the Community O&S Panel considered the Plan at their meeting on 22nd November. Members of ROSP were invited to attend this meeting.*

KD.033/12 Budget Process 2012/13 – *ROSP will consider budget report at their meetings on 4th December 2012 and 3rd January 2013.*

KD.042/12 Proposals for Implementation of Council Tax Technical Reforms to discounts and exemption – *to be considered at this meeting of the Panel.*

KD.043/12 Polling Station Review 2012/13 – *to be considered by the Executive at their meeting on 17th December.*

KD.044/12 Asset Review Disposal Programme – Land at Morton - *to be considered by the Executive at their meeting on 17th December.*

2. References from the Executive

The following references from the Executive has been received and can be found at Appendix 2.

EX.144/12 Local Support for Council Tax

3. Work Programme

The Panel's current work programme is attached at **Appendix 3** for comment/amendment.

Items relevant to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

Notice of Key Decisions to be taken by the Executive

The following key decision is to be made on behalf of Carlisle City Council:

Key Decision Reference:	KD.033/12
Decision Title:	Budget Process 2013/14
Decision to be taken:	<p>The Executive will be asked to consider strategic financial issues arising from the budget setting process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Budget Update - Revenue Estimates (19th November 2012) (b) Individual Charges Reviews (Local Environment, Governance , Economic Development, Community Engagement) (19th November 2012) (c) New Revenue Spending Proposals (19th November 2012) (d) New Savings Proposals (19th November 2012) (e) New Capital Spending Proposals and Provisional Capital Programme (19th November 2012) (f) Repair and Maintenance (19th November 2012) (g) Treasury Management and Prudential Borrowing Implications (19th November 2012) (h) Consideration of Overview and Scrutiny Consultation feedback (13th December 2012) (i) Draft Revenue Support Grant Settlement (if available) (17th December 2012) (j) Summary Overall Revenue and Capital Position (17th December 2012) (k) Draft Treasury Management and Investment Strategy including MRP Strategy (17th December 2012) (l) Executive Draft Budget Proposals for consultation (17th December 2012) (m) Final Revenue Support Grant and Final Revenue Budget Summary (14th January 2013) (n) Provisional Capital Programme (14th January 2013) (o) Treasury Management and Investment Strategy including MRP Strategy (14th January 2013) (p) Consideration of Final Budget Consultation (16th January 2013) (q) Executive's Final Budget Proposals (16th January 2013).
Date Decision to be considered:	19 November 2012, 13 December 2012, 17 December 2012 and 14 January 2013 consultation period to include Overview and Scrutiny as appropriate
Date Decision to be taken:	19 November 2012, 13 December 2012, 17 December 2012 and 14 January 2013
Is the Decision Public or Private?:	The decision will be taken in public.

Appendix 1

Items relevant to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

Documents submitted for consideration in relation to the Decision:	The Director of Resource's report will be available five working days before the meeting
Contact Officer for this Decision:	Director of Resources, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG
Relevant Portfolio Area:	Finance, Governance and Resources (Councillor Dr Tickner)
Relevant or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:	Cross cutting

All public reports can be viewed in the Customer Contact centre of the Civic Centre, Carlisle, the Public Library and on the Council's website www.carlisle.gov.uk.

Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker. These, if available, may be obtained by contacting the named contact officer.

Items relevant to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

Notice of Key Decisions to be taken by the Executive

The following key decision is to be made on behalf of Carlisle City Council:

Key Decision Reference:	KD.042/12
Decision Title:	Proposals for Implementation of Council Tax Technical Reforms to discounts and exemption
Decision to be taken:	The Executive will be asked to consider whether to reduce Council Tax Discount/Exemptions as allowed under the Local Government Finance Bill to fund in part the cost of implementing the Local Support for Council Tax Scheme
Date Decision to be considered:	19 November 2012
Date Decision to be taken:	17 December 2012
Is the Decision Public or Private?:	The decision will be taken in public
Documents submitted for consideration in relation to the Decision:	The report of the Director of Resources will be available five working days before the meeting
Contact Officer for this Decision:	Director of Resources, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG
Relevant Portfolio Area:	Finance, Governance and Resources (Councillor Dr Tickner) and Communities and Housing
Relevant or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:	Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker. These, if available, may be obtained by contacting the named contact officer.

Items relevant to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

Notice of Key Decisions to be taken by the Executive

The following key decision is to be made on behalf of Carlisle City Council:

Key Decision Reference:	KD.043/12
Decision Title:	Polling Station Review 2012/13
Decision to be taken:	The Executive will be asked to make recommendations to Council on polling arrangements within the City Council area.
Date Decision to be considered:	
Date Decision to be taken:	17 December 2012
Is the Decision Public or Private?:	The decision will be taken in public.
Documents submitted for consideration in relation to the Decision:	The report of the Director of Governance will be available five working days before the meeting
Contact Officer for this Decision:	Director of Governance, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG
Relevant Portfolio Area:	Finance, Governance and Resources (Councillor Dr Tickner)
Relevant or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:	Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker. These, if available, may be obtained by contacting the named contact officer.

Items relevant to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

Notice of Key Decisions to be taken by the Executive

The following key decision is to be made on behalf of Carlisle City Council:

Key Decision Reference:	KD.044/12
Decision Title:	Asset Review Disposal Programme - Land at Morton
Decision to be taken:	The Executive will be asked to approve the release and exchange of land at Morton, Carlisle in accordance with the Asset Review Disposal Programme.
Date Decision to be considered:	
Date Decision to be taken:	17 December 2012
Is the Decision Public or Private?:	The decision will be taken in private. The report is not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as the report contains exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
Documents submitted for consideration in relation to the Decision:	The report of the Director of Resources will be available five working days before the meeting
Contact Officer for this Decision:	Director of Resources, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG
Relevant Portfolio Area:	Finance, Governance and Resources (Councillor Dr Tickner) and Economy and Enterprise (Councillor Glover)
Relevant or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:	Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker. These, if available, may be obtained by contacting the named contact officer.

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2012

EX.144/12 LOCAL SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX
(Key Decision – KD.038/12)

Portfolio Communities and Housing

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Community; and Resources
Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.093/12, the Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder submitted Report CD.55/12 concerning the issue of local support for Council Tax.

The Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder reminded Members that they had on 6 August 2012 considered report CD.39/12 which outlined the draft proposals for consultation for a local scheme through which the City Council would administer Support for Council Tax. She outlined the key recommendations of that report.

Following consideration, the recommendations had been approved and the consultation process for the draft Scheme initiated.

Members' attention was drawn to the findings from the consultation, namely that the vast majority of respondents supported the draft proposals.

The Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had considered the matter on 11 October 2012 and resolved (COSP.68/12):

“That the Panel:

Agreed the principle of not reducing the current level of reductions given to existing Council Tax Benefit recipients when changing from a Benefit to a Discount.

Agreed that Carlisle City Council's LSCT Scheme would be identical to the current Department for Work and Pensions Council Tax Benefit Scheme but written as a S13A policy document, under The Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), to ensure it becomes a legal discount rather than a Benefit.

Agreed the principles of funding the scheme, in part or full, through the application of Council Tax Technical Reforms and other funding streams.

Was aware that the full LSCT S13A policy and the decisions regarding implementation of Council Tax Technical Reforms and other funding streams would need to be approved by Council on 8 January 2013.

APPENDIX 2

Approved the principle of a draft policy (statement of intent), to include consultees, as part of the formal consultation process.

Agreed that consideration be given to the financial implications of the local scheme during the first operational year and the position reviewed for subsequent years.

That a further update on the Localisation Support for Council Tax be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.”

The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel addressed the Executive. She emphasised that the public consultation period had closed just prior to the Panel meeting. The key question had been to seek views on the intention to maintain support at the same level, together with options for potential scheme changes. The findings from the consultation would be analysed and the Panel would examine that via a further report.

The Chairman also stressed that Panel Members were anxious that unintentional fraud would be treated sympathetically by the City Council, and had received an assurance to that effect. She added that the Panel was concerned as to whether sufficient resources were available within the Directorate to undertake the work, but the Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder was confident that the work could be done within current resources.

In addition, the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 18 October 2012 had resolved (ROSP.73/12):

“1) That the localisation of Council Tax report CD.50/12 be noted.

2) That the Panel were in support of the progress made and the recommendations with the report.

3) That a further report be submitted to the Panel following the introduction of the legislation.”

The Chairman of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel was present at the meeting and gave an overview of the Panel’s work on a variety of issues, details of which could be found within his report to Council on 13 November 2012. On the issue of the Localisation of Council Tax he confirmed that the Panel was supportive of the progress made and the recommendations contained within the report.

In conclusion, the Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder recommended that the proposals be submitted for approval by the City Council in January 2013. The Leader seconded the recommendation.

Summary of options rejected None

APPENDIX 2

DECISION

That the proposed Scheme for Local Support for Council Tax be submitted for approval by full Council in January 2013.

Reasons for Decision

The proposed scheme would maintain support at the entitlement levels currently awarded. As a result, the new scheme would continue to support those most in need of assistance

RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

Date last revised: 22 November 2012

Issue	Type of Scrutiny						Comments/Current Status	Meeting Dates								
	Performance Management	Forward Plan Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/ External Agency	Budget	Monitoring		14 Jun 12	26 Jul 12	30 Aug 12	18 Oct 12	4 Dec 12	3 Jan 13	21 Feb 13	4 Apr 13	
Current Meeting – 4 th December 2012																
Budget Monitoring 12-13					✓	✓	Monitoring of budget			✓		✓		✓		
Budget					✓		Budget setting 2012/13-2016/17					✓	✓			
Proposals for Implementation of Council Tax Technical Reforms		✓					Consideration of Executive proposals					✓				
Performance Monitoring Reports	✓					✓	Service Standards relevant to the remit of the Panel	✓		✓		✓		✓		
Organisational Development	✓					✓	Quarterly monitoring of OD plan	✓		✓		✓		✓		
Task & Finish Groups																
Saving Paper			✓		✓		Consider draft report				✓	✓				

RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

Date last revised: 22 November 2012

Issue	Type of Scrutiny						Comments/Current Status	Meeting Dates							
	Performance Management	Forward Plan Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/ External Agency	Budget	Monitoring		14 Jun 12	26 Jul 12	30 Aug 12	18 Oct 12	4 Dec 12	3 Jan 13	21 Feb 13	4 Apr 13
Future Meetings															
Carlisle Plan							To consider draft plan						?		
Transformation Board						✓	To receive six monthly updates				✓				✓
Sickness Absence						✓	Exception performance report on sickness absence	✓			✓			✓	
Significant Partnerships				✓			Bi-Annual review of significant partnerships				✓				✓
Projects Assurance Group						✓	Quarterly monitoring of significant projects		✓		✓		✓		✓
Corporate Risk Register						✓	Quarterly Monitoring		✓		✓		✓		✓
Asset Management Business Plan			✓				To monitor implementation of plan		✓					✓	
Employee Opinion Survey							To inform Members of feedback and action plan								?

RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

Date last revised: 22 November 2012

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	Performance Management	Forward Plan Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/ External Agency	Budget	Monitoring		14 Jun 12	26 Jul 12	30 Aug 12	18 Oct 12	4 Dec 12	3 Jan 13	21 Feb 13	4 Apr 13	
Scrutiny Annual Report							Draft report for comment before Chairs Group								✓	
COMPLETED ITEMS																
Savings Proposals					✓		To consider Executive savings proposals				✓					
Localisation of Council Tax							Draft scheme how Council will administer Council Tax Benefit discount from 1/4/12				✓					
Medium Term Financial Plan					✓					✓						
2011/12 Provisional Outturn Reports					✓		Outturn reports	✓								
For Information																
Budget Process and Timetable							18th October 2012									