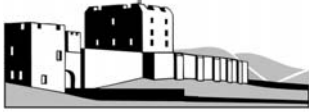


**CARLISLE
CITY COUNCIL**



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RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Panel Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 5th January 2012

Title: Overview Report and Work Programme

Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Report reference: OS 01/12

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.
- Note and/or amend the Panel's work programme (Appendix 2)

Contact Officer: Nicola Edwards

Ext: 7122

1. Forward Plan Items

The Forward Plan of the Executive covering the period 1st January – 30th April 2012 was published on 16th December 2011. The following issues contained in this Forward Plan that fall into the remit of this Panel are as follows and full details can be found at Appendix 1:

KD024/11 Budget Process 2012-13 – to be considered at this meeting of the Panel.

2. References from the Executive

The following reference from the Executive is attached at Appendix 2

EX.165/11 – Budget 2012/13 – Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Panels on the draft budget reports.

3. Work Programme

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

FORWARD PLAN

**Index of Active Executive Key Decisions relevant to:
Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Key Decision Ref Nos:	Subject:	Date of Executive Meeting
KD.024/11	Budget Process 2012-13 (EX.140/11, EX.141/11, EX.142/11, EX.143/11, EX.144/11, EX.145/11, EX.146/11, EX.147/11, EX.148/11 and EX.149/11 on 22 November 2011 and EX.165/11 on 12 December 2011)	<p>22 November 2011</p> <p>(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) on 22 November 2011</p> <p>(g) on 12 December 2011</p> <p>(h) (i), (j) and (k) on 19 December 2011</p> <p>(l), (m), (n), (o) and (p) on 16 January 2012</p>

FORWARD PLAN

Active Executive Key Decisions relevant to: Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Ref: KD.024/11

Portfolio Area: Governance and Resources

Subject Budget Process 2012-13 (EX.140/11, EX.141/11, EX.142/11, EX.143/11, EX.144/11, EX.145/11, EX.146/11, EX.147/11, EX.148/11 and EX.149/11 on 22 November 2011 and EX.165/11 on 12 December 2011)

Key Decisions:

To consider strategic financial issues arising from the budget setting process:

- (a) Budget Update - Revenue Estimates
- (b) Individual Charges Reviews (Local Environment, Governance , Economic Development, Community Engagement)
- (c) New Revenue Spending Proposals
- (d) New Savings Proposals
- (e) New Capital Spending Proposals and Provisional Capital Programme
- (f) Treasury Management and Prudential Borrowing Implications
- (g) Consideration of Overview and Scrutiny Consultation feedback
- (h) Draft Revenue Support Grant Settlement (if available)
- (i) Summary Overall Revenue and Capital Position
- (j) Draft Treasury Management and Investment Strategy including MRP Strategy
- (k) Executive Draft Budget Proposals for consultation
- (l) Final Revenue Support Grant and Final Revenue Budget Summary
- (m) Provisional Capital Programme
- (n) Treasury Management and Investment Strategy including MRP Strategy
- (o) Consideration of Final Budget Consultation
- (p) Executive's Final Budget Proposals

To be considered initially by Executive: 22 November 2011

Decision to be taken at Executive on: (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) on 22 November 2011
(g) on 12 December 2011
(h) (i), (j) and (k) on 19 December 2011
(l), (m), (n), (o) and (p) on 16 January 2012

Responsible or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel for all budget issues except the detailed service estimates. Community and Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panels for New Spending Proposals, Savings and Charges pertaining to their individual areas of responsibility.

Date when the matter will be available for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Policy and Budget matters which will be available as follows:

- (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) - Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 24 November 2011, Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 1 December 2011 and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 6 December 2011
- (h), (i) and (j) Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 5 January 2012

Consultees: Overview and Scrutiny Panels, Business Community, Trade Unions, Citizens and Staff

Date for Consultees' comments: Consultation Period 19 December 2011 to 16 January 2012

Relevant reports/background papers which are available:

Minutes Excerpts (at Executive 12 December 2011)
Report RD.67/11 - Treasury Management July - September 2011 and Forecasts for 2012/13 to 2016/17 (at Executive 22 November 2011)
Report RD.66/11 - Revised Capital Programme 2011/12 and Provisional Capital Programme 2012/13 to 2016/17 (at Executive 22 November 2011)
Report RD.65/11 - Summary of savings delivered and new proposals (at Executive 22 November 2011)
Report RD.64/11 Budget 2012/13 to 2016/17 - Summary of new revenue spending pressures (at Executive 22 November 2011)
Report GD.58/11 - Review of Charges 2012/13 - Governance - Licensing (at Executive 22 November 2011)
Report GD.62/11 - Review of Charges 2012/13 - Governance (at Executive 22 November 2011)
Report ED.39/11 - Charges Review Report 2012/13 - Economic Development (at Executive 22 November 2011)
Report RD.63/11 - 2011/12 Revised Revenue Base Estimates and Updated Medium Term Financial Plan Projections: 2012/13 to 2016/17 (at Executive 22 November 2011)
Report CD.25/11 - Review of Charges 2012/13 - Community Engagement (at Executive 22 November 2011)
Report LE.23/11 - Review of Charges 2012/13 - Local Environment (at Executive 22 November 2011)
The Assistant Director (Resources) report will be available five working days before the meeting

Further Information From:

Assistant Director (Resources), Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE**

HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2011

**EX.165/11 BUDGET 2012/13 – FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
PANELS ON THE DRAFT BUDGET REPORTS**

(Key Decision)

Portfolio Governance and Resources

Subject Matter

The Minutes of the meetings of the following Overview and Scrutiny Panels relating to the draft Budget reports considered by the Executive on 22 November 2011 were submitted:

- (a) Community - 24 November 2011 (COSP.95/11)
- (b) Environment and Economy - 1 December 2011 (EEOSP.74/11 and EEOSP.77/11 (Car Parking Study); and EEOSP.75/11)
- (c) Resources - 6 December 2011 (ROSP.85/11 - ROSP.93/11)

Copies of the above Minute Excerpts had been circulated.

The Leader then invited the Chairmen of the respective Overview and Scrutiny Panels to speak:

(a) The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel was in attendance and outlined the debate, highlighting in particular the Panel's comments / concerns in relation to the Olympic Torch Relay; Income below target; the impact of water charges upon allotment holders; and the Hostel Service.

In response, the Leader advised that the Olympic Torch Relay was a major event in which Carlisle would participate. Although planning was underway, relative costs were not yet available. Overview and Scrutiny would be able to obtain further updates as the matter progressed.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder further explained that the need for increased water charges over a period of time had been agreed with allotment holders some years before. Under that agreement, the Council undertook to take steps to ensure that more than one water connection was available within the larger allotments and work had been done in that regard.

Referring to the Hostel Service, the Portfolio Holder recognised that the charges did not include a support element and emphasised the need to look very seriously at the service and information provided by the City Council. He was quite concerned that the Council had been

unsuccessful in securing Supporting People funding. In conclusion, he applauded Overview and Scrutiny Members for their views on the Resource Centre.

The Community Engagement Portfolio Holder made reference to the terminology used with regard to the Olympic Torch Relay, pointing out that Carlisle would host a 'stage' rather than a 'leg'. She added that the relay was scheduled to pass through areas where there were many sporting facilities, and expressed the hope that everyone would engage with the City Council in showcasing the facilities available within Carlisle.

Referring to the concerns expressed with regard to the impact of the proposed Council Tax freeze, the Performance and Development Portfolio Holder stressed that the Council had a long history of maintaining Council Tax freezes for the benefit of the people of Carlisle. In his view, failure to take up the Government's offer would reflect badly upon the authority.

The Leader emphasised, for the avoidance of doubt, that the Executive proposed to work towards bringing forward budget proposals which included no increase in Council Tax, and would not depart from that stance.

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder reiterated the Executive's resolve to freeze Council Tax. He was aware of the concerns put forward in terms of the impact thereof on the 2013/14 budget and outlined some of the options available to address the position (e.g. Budget profiling). The Portfolio Holder considered rejection of Government support in freezing Council Tax to be ludicrous, and the Executive would not on behalf of the people of Carlisle advocate such a course of action.

(b) The Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel presented the Minutes of the Panel meeting on 1 December 2011 commenting that the Panel was somewhat disappointed that there was little scope for manoeuvre in terms of charges set nationally (e.g. Planning, Building Control and Dog Fouling). She commented upon the very visible issues of litter and dog fouling, expressing the view that increased charges to address concerns around those areas would constitute a 'win win' situation. Members had requested Portfolio Holders / Officers to continue to lobby central Government.

She outlined the Panel's deliberations with regard to car parking and the serious issues around on street parking. Members felt that the proposed allocation of the City Council's car parks into four categories would give greater flexibility and supported the proposed charges.

The Chairman further outlined the Panel's comments with regard to Parks and Green Spaces; Talkin Tarn and the Assembly Room, the detail of which was set out within the Minute Excerpt.

Referring to the issue of dog fouling / enforcement, the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder believed that improved education may be the way forward, rather than increasing charges in those areas. The Assistant Director (Local Environment) was looking at how that could be taken forward in conjunction with schools, greater advertising, etc. It was important

for the Council to take a hard stance with regard to dog fouling, particularly bearing in mind the possible health implications for children. He further believed that people using parks and green spaces for business use (e.g. Dog walking businesses) should contribute to the upkeep thereof. That would of course be dependant upon whether such use could be enforced. Further consideration required to be given to the proposed annual registration fee for swimmers at Talkin Tarn and the Assistant Director (Local Environment) was investigating the matter.

In summary, the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder expressed his gratitude for the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny, particularly with regard to car parking.

In response, the Economic Development Portfolio Holder said that announcements would be made in due course as part of the Localism Bill, and it may be possible to lobby Government further to enable Local Authorities to set their own charges with regard to Development Control. She also reminded Members that a review of the Old Town Hall was currently taking place, the outcome of which was awaited.

The Leader indicated his agreement with the sentiments expressed by the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder with regard to dog fouling, emphasising the importance of concentrating on education and the development of a better relationship with the public around awareness / responsibility.

(c) The Chairman of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel referred the Executive to Minute ROSP.87/11 and the request that the Executive give consideration to retaining the Small Scale Community Projects Budget which was extremely valued and appreciated in the community. Referring to the Investment Strategy (Minute ROSP.91/11) he added that the Panel had agreed a commitment to a workshop session, post the Morton sale, to better inform Members of the issues/options involved.

The Leader stated that the Small Scale Community Projects Budget constituted a valuable asset for Councillors to assist their constituents.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder also valued that Budget. He noted that certain Members had not made use of their allocation and pled with them to do so for the benefit of people within their Wards.

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder agreed that there was mixed take up of the Small Scale Community Projects Budget across the Council. He found it to be very useful in the Longtown Ward and encouraged everyone to utilise that resource. Although the Portfolio Holder could not give an assurance that the Budget would be retained, he said that the matter would receive careful consideration as part of the overall Budget process.

He was also receptive to the idea of a workshop on the Investment Strategy to promote a wider understanding and would discuss the matter further with Overview and Scrutiny.

The Portfolio Holder apologised that it had not been possible for him to attend the Panel meeting on 6 December 2011. He did, however, wish to thank Members for their consideration of the draft Budget reports.

In conclusion, the Leader thanked Overview and Scrutiny Panel Members for their comments which would be taken on board by the Executive when considering and formulating its budget proposals for 2012/13.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Overview and Scrutiny Panels be thanked for their consideration of the draft Budget reports and their comments, as detailed within the Minutes submitted, taken into account as part of the Executive's deliberations on the 2012/13 budget.

Reasons for Decision

The views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels will be taken into account as part of the 2012/13 Budget process

RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12

Date last revised: 20 December 2011

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		16 Jun 11	21 Jul 11	25 Aug 11	13 Oct 11	6 Dec 11	5 Jan 12	16 Feb 12	29 Mar 12
Current Meeting -5th January 2011															
Projects Assurance Group						✓	Quarterly monitoring of significant projects		✓		✓		✓		✓
Corporate Risk Register						✓	Quarterly Monitoring		✓		✓		✓		✓
Budget					✓		Budget setting 2012/13-2016/17			Workshop 11/11/11	✓	✓			
Task & Finish Groups															
Shared Services			✓				To commence Jan 2012								
Capital Programme Review			✓				To receive response from Executive	✓		✓					
Future Meetings															
Asset Management Business Plan			✓				To monitor implementation of plan		✓		✓			✓	✓
Performance Monitoring Reports (including Organisational Dev)	✓					✓	Monitoring of performance relevant to the remit of the Panel	✓		✓		✓		✓	

Last Revised: 20/12/2011

RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12

Date last revised: 20 December 2011

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Budget Monitoring 11/12					✓	✓	Monitoring of budget			✓		✓				
Transformation Programme					✓	✓	Monitoring of action plans, budget savings and process			x	✓					
Shared Services						✓	Update report on RBS, ICT & Audit Shared Services						✓			
Scrutiny Annual Report							Draft report for comment before Chairs Group							✓		
Completed Items																
Significant Partnerships				✓			Annual review of significant partnerships				✓				June 2012	
Regional Growth Fund							To provide report on bid			x	✓					
Discretionary Rate Relief Policy				✓			To consider draft protocol and criteria			x	✓					
Costs of Services			✓				To receive a report detailing the costs of all services provided by the			✓						

Last Revised: 20/12/2011

RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12

Date last revised: 20 December 2011

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		16 Jun 11	21 Jul 11	25 Aug 11	13 Oct 11	6 Dec 11	5 Jan 12	16 Feb 12	29 Mar 12	
							Authority									
Medium Term Financial Plan					✓					✓						
Asset Management Plan 2011-2016					✓					✓						
Employee Opinion Survey							To inform Members of feedback and action plan		✓							
2010/11 Provisional Outturn Reports							Outturn reports and recommendations on carry forward requests to Council	✓								
INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS																
Details										Date Circulated						