

**Report of the**  
**CORPORATE RESOURCES**  
**O & S COMMITTEE**  
**Chairman**  
**CLLR. B. O. EARP**

Item 11(III)

The proposals for the draft Budget 2008/9 were discussed at the Corporate Resources O & S Committee Meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007. This was the first opportunity for Members to make their observations.

In common with the Community and Infrastructure O & S Committees, Members had difficulty in Scrutiny due to a significant proportion of unknown factors which still had to be determined.

Specific issues affecting the projecture : -

- i) Outcome of the Job Evaluation Project
- ii) Government Finance Settlement – National Non-Domestic Rates
- iii) Specific Government Grants including: -
  - a) Local Authority Business Growth Initiative Grant (LABGI)
  - b) Housing and Planning Delivery Grant
  - c) Concessionary Fares Funding
  - d) Triennial Revaluation of the Pensions Fund
  - e) The Revenue Support Grant (R.S.G.) the details of which were due to be reported to the Council later-on that day.

As a direct result of a probable “tight fiscal policy”, Members voiced serious concerns with regard to the “light weight” summary of the savings which relied heavily on the freezing of recruitment. The lack of detail as to how it would be actioned, the effect on Staff morale, and a possible reduction in services gave rise to angst.

As the Service Improvement Reviews would not be completed within the current municipal year, Members voiced their disquiet at the delay.

In relation to the Provisional Capital Programme 2008/9 to 2010/2011, Members approved the summary of savings proposals but were alarmed at the number of future commitments which may need prudential borrowing and the implications thereof.

It was agreed that prior to the Corporate Resources O & S Committee Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008, a special meeting of the Community and Infrastructure O & S Committees will discuss further Budget details.

Additional matters talked over: -

1. Progress report on the Staff Appraisal Scheme
2. Pay and Workforce Strategy
3. Corporate Procurement Strategy and Code of Conduct

The Head of Revenues and Benefits submitted a draft Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy. Members were of the opinion that amendments should be made to clarify the terms and rationale by the provision of additional narrative with regard to the types of fraud, together with examples, before being referred to the Executive.

Members requested that the Director of Corporate Resources reports to the Corporate Resources O & S Committee annually on the operation of the policy giving an indication of the type and frequency of incidents which the policy had addressed and showing the amount of money which had been saved.

Having recently completed their investigations, the Performance Monitoring Task and Finish Group's Lead Member drew Members' attention to its recommendations, together with a list of Performance Indicators for quarterly reporting and the example of the "Dashboard" style presentation. Members concurred with the recommendations and hoped that arrangements could be made for them to receive introductory training on the new approach and its presentation. Also that for an interim period the current Performance Reports be circulated alongside the new style "Dashboard" presentation.

The Head of Policy and Performance presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Corporate Performance Monitoring Report.

The Head of Community Services explained an anomaly in the Budget coding/cost allocation for a Back Lane Capital expenditure, in response to a query from this Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

In conclusion, the Chairman wished Members all the best for the Festive Season and reminded them that the next meeting will be on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

Cllr B. O. Earp  
Chairman – 20. 12. 2007