

Meeting Date:

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairman's Report – Councillor  
Reg Watson OBE**

---

### **Budget 2013-14**

There was a general consensus that the Executive were making sensible financial assumptions, despite the uncertain Government Grants position.

### **Revenue Estimates and Medium Term Financial Plan**

There were a number of significant factors affecting the Budget that were currently unresolved i.e.

- Government Financial Settlement (Due December)
- Welfare Reform Act. This is likely to have a major impact on the Council's Budget both financial and managerial.
- Decisions were needed to limit Budget increases and maximise savings.
- The Panel awaits the financial information requested for both Carlisle Leisure Limited and Tullie House.

### **Community Engagement**

The Panel noted the projected £14,000 deficit on the proposed 2013/14 Revenue Budget for Hostels and the review to bridge the shortfall.

### **Economic Development**

The Panel asked for clarity regarding the Town Hall/Green Market Scheme and were assured that the work on the roof was current and that the internal work would start next year.

## **Saving Paper Task & Finish Group**

The Panel report has been given to the Executive who accepted out recommendations. This should prove to be a major change in the working of the Council and a significant reduction in the use of paper.

## **Notable Members' Comments at the Panel meeting**

- Concern was expressed regarding the use of a consultant for the Parking Review, and asked why this had not been undertaken in-house?
- A member felt that the Bereavement Charges were unfair
- A member asked for more details regarding the Apprentice Scheme and Flexible Working.
- Members asked for clarity regarding the Town Hall scheme
- A Member questioned the increases in parking charges at Talkin Tarn.
- Could the fine for not disposing of dog foul correctly, be increased?

Councillor Reg Watson, OBE

Chairman, Resources Overview & Scrutiny Panel