

AGENDA ITEM 8(b)

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 20th July 2005

POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK

MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET – 30th June 2005

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Cabinet on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Would Councillors please note that the related reports and documents have not been re-circulated as they have already been sent to all Members via the Cabinet agenda. In addition, a further copy of the Cabinet agenda has been placed in Group Rooms. A public inspection copy is available on request. The policy documents, referred to below, have been posted on the Council's website. (See front cover for contact details.)

| ITEM | RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL | C A B I N E T MEMBER |
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| 1. <u>BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2005</u> - | The Cabinet considered a report from the Chief Executive that sought approval for Council's Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) for 2005. The Council is recommended that: The Best Value Performance Plan for 2005, as referred to in the report to the Cabinet on 30th June 2005, be approved. The report is on page 11 of the Cabinet agenda of 30 th June 2005. | Stephen Clee |

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| <p>2. BENEFITS SERVICE – VISION AND OBJECTIVES - UPDATE</p> | <p>The Cabinet considered a report from the Head of Financial Services which sought approval for the Vision and Objectives of the Benefits Service.</p> <p>The Council is recommended that:</p> <p>The Vision and Objectives of the Benefits Service, attached as Appendix 1 to the report to the Cabinet on 30th June 2005, be endorsed.</p> <p>The report is on page 13 of the Cabinet agenda of 30th June 2005.</p> | <p>John-Paul Campion</p> |
| <p>3. HOUSING BENEFITS OVERPAYMENTS POLICY - UPDATE</p> | <p>The Cabinet considered a report from the Head of Financial Services which sought approval for the Housing Benefits Overpayments Policy.</p> <p>The Council is recommended that:</p> <p>The Housing Benefits - Overpayments Policy – June 2005, as set out in a separate appendix to the report to the Cabinet on 30th June 2005, be adopted.</p> <p>The report is on page 22 of the Cabinet agenda of 30th June 2005.</p> | <p>John-Paul Campion</p> |
| <p>4. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT</p> | <p>The Cabinet considered a report from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services which sought approval for authority to be delegated to the relevant Head of Service to implement and undertake enforcement action, where it is expedient, as specified in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.</p> <p>The Council is recommended that:</p> <p>1. The Scheme of Delegation to Officers be amended to give delegated powers</p> | <p>Marcus Hart</p> |

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| | <p>to the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services and the Head of Planning, Health and Environment to take any required action, including the issuing of fixed price penalty notices, under the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.</p> <p>2. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to take legal proceedings, where necessary, against persons failing to comply with the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.</p> <p>The report is on page 24 of the Cabinet agenda of 30th June 2005.</p> | |
| <p>5. INTEGRATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM PLAN</p> | <p>The Cabinet considered a report from the Chief Executive that sought approval for the Integrated Economic Development and Tourism Plan.</p> <p>The Council is recommended that:</p> <p>The District Council's Integrated Economic Development and Tourism Plan 2005 – 2007, as set out in a separate appendix to the report to the Cabinet on 30th June 2005, be approved.</p> <p>The report is on page 27 of the Cabinet agenda of 30th June 2005.</p> | <p>James Dudley</p> |
| <p>6. BUDGET SCRUTINY PROCESS</p> | <p>The Cabinet considered recommendations from the Finance and Corporate Affairs Policy and Scrutiny Panel on ways of streamlining the budget process to make more time for scrutiny of financial strategy.</p> <p>The Council is recommended that:</p> <p>1. The Budget Review Group, as part of the Budget Scrutiny process, scrutinise and prioritise all Council</p> | <p>John-Paul Champion</p> |

activities to assist with one of the points identified in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment Report, that the Council did not identify “lower or non priorities”, with a view to re-allocating resources to services with higher priority or to new activities. This will also assist in identifying possible ‘Gershon’ efficiency savings.

2. The Budget Review Group/Finance and Corporate Affairs Policy and Scrutiny Panel report to December Cabinet outlining recommendations relating to the Base Budget in order to assist in formulating the Finance Strategy for the next three years.
3. Income Service Options be forwarded to the Budget Review Group/Finance and Corporate Affairs Policy and Scrutiny Panel in November for scrutiny and recommendations prior to being considered by Cabinet in December.
4. Expenditure Service Options be replaced with :-
 - a) Fully costed recommendations from Policy and Scrutiny Panels;
 - b) Cabinet proposals in relation to new policy/changes to levels of existing services.

NOTE: With the Government contemplating the issuing of 3 year Finance Settlements to Local Authorities, it should be possible from 2006 (even this year if the Settlement comes out early enough in November) for the Cabinet to issue Draft Budget Proposals in December. This would allow further time for the scrutiny and the consultation process.

Council may wish to have an ‘understanding’ that all alternative

amendments go through the Scrutiny process before the day of Budget Setting Council, and as a consequence a specific meeting is set as part of the Budget Timetable for scrutiny of alternative budgets.

The report is on page 59 of the Cabinet agenda of 30th June 2005.