

BASE BUDGET REVIEW - PROGRESS
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Planning and Finance))

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To report the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Planning and Finance) in relation to progress being made in the review of the Council's base budget.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council resolved at its meeting on 10th December 2003 that within a timeframe to enable the outcome to be considered at the outset of deliberations on the budget and MTP for 2005/06, a Member-led review of the District Council's base budget should be undertaken with a target of identifying an overall saving of at least 2% in net expenditure.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 At their meeting held on 13th July 2004, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Planning and Finance) questioned the progress which was being made in undertaking the review. In the absence of any formal consideration of the matter, Members expressed their concern that the review might not be concluded in sufficient time to enable to outcome to be taken into account when the budget for 2005/06 is being discussed.
- 3.2 As the Council has determined that the review should be Member-led, the Panel have suggested that representatives of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel should be involved in the process and Councillors P G Mitchell, P J Downes, I R Muir and D B Dew have been nominated to participate in the review when this takes place.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is

RECOMMENDED

that the Cabinet be requested to consider the concerns expressed by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Planning and Finance) and the role of the Panel Members in the review.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Planning and Finance) 13th July 2004

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