

**DRAFT BUDGET 2012/13 AND MTP - FEEDBACK
(Report of the Cabinet)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting on 8th December 2011, the Cabinet considered a report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) on the draft budget 2012/2013 and the Medium Term Plan.

2. DELIBERATIONS

- 2.1 In recommending the draft Budget and Medium Term Plan to Council as a basis for the development of the budget for 2012/2013 and the revised Medium Term Plan 2015/2016, the Cabinet has considered the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) thereon.
- 2.2 The latest government grant figures have been presented to the Cabinet, Members have been advised that the Formula Grant is as predicted and the New Homes Bonus is higher than the projected figure within the budget.
- 2.3 In considering the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being), Members concurred with the Panel that the Council should not accept the proposed Council Tax Freeze Grant.
- 2.4 With regard to setting the Council Tax base for 2012/13, the Cabinet has confirmed that tax payers should not be presented with a tax increase that will require a referendum to be held.
- 2.5 In discussing the Panel's views on the Council's general reserves provision, the Cabinet noted that the minimum level of reserves is reviewed annually and discussed the benefits and risks of increasing the level to £5m.
- 2.6 With regard to the inclusion of Low End Assumptions built into the MTP, Members have emphasised the need to consider these carefully including the implications of planning fees from the Enterprise Zone.
- 2.7 In discussing the increased demand for Disabled Facilities Grants, Members reiterated their commitment to maintaining the current level of service for these grants. The Cabinet accepted that options will continue to be investigated with a view to working in partnership with other public organisations to reduce this cost.
- 2.8 During their discussions, the Cabinet has made reference to the ongoing discussions being held over the future of the Council's CCTV service and with the Voluntary Sector Organisations over commissioning agreements.
- 2.9 Whilst congratulating officers on the significant progress that has been made in both the efficiency and savings measures identified for the next two years,

Executive Councillors have stressed the need to remain vigilant given the current economic climate.

- 2.10 The Cabinet has also approved a supplementary capital estimate of £300k to enable the Huntingdon multi-storey car park scheme to proceed. The Cabinet has thanked the Panel for their input.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel are invited to note the contents of this report.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report of the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) – 1st December 2011

Minutes and Report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8th December 2011.