

**BUDGET 2012/2013 AND MTP – FEEDBACK
(REPORT BY THE CABINET)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 16th February 2012, the Cabinet considered a report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) on the Budget 2012/13 and the Medium Term Plan 2013/17.

2. DELIBERATIONS

- 2.1 In recommending approval of the proposed Medium Term Plan, Budget and Financial Plan and an increase in the Council Tax for 2012/13 to Council, the Cabinet has considered the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) thereon.
- 2.3 Members concurred with the Panel that Council Tax levels should be increased by 3.5% in order to meet unavoidable inflation and preserve valued services as far as possible both this year and in the future.
- 2.4 On the subject of funding for the voluntary sector, the Cabinet has confirmed that the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) will be examining in detail the policies and mechanisms proposed between the sector and the Council given that it falls under their remit.
- 2.5 In discussing the Council's level of revenue reserves, including its relativity to other District Councils, the Cabinet noted that the level will be reviewed as part of the Council's financial forecast each September.
- 2.6 With regard to the Overview and Scrutiny's comments that a saving had not been included in a section's budget, Members have been advised by the Head of Financial Services that the issue related to confusion as to whether a saving had been achieved, rather than to whether the budget had been reduced by the relevant savings target. The Cabinet were reassured that the final phase of the annual budget process, when budgets are disaggregated to a lower level, will clarify and resolve such issues.
- 2.7 In discussing the presentation of corporate budgets, Members have been advised that the Executive Councillor for Finance will discuss the inclusion of interest figures and other such "corporate" items in the summary budget with the Managing Director (Resources).
- 2.8 Having thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for their input and in acknowledging the work of the staff in achieving the budget outcomes, the Cabinet has recommended approval of the budget, MTP and Financial Plan to Council and an increase of £4.34 (3.5%) in Council Tax, representing a level of £128.51 for a Band D property for 2012/13.

3. **CONCLUSIONS**

- 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 and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) –
2nd February 2012.

Minutes and Report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16th February 2012.