

---

## **Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being)**

**Report of the meeting held on 5th December 2013**

---

---

### **Matters for Information**

---

#### **22. NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATES – CHANGES TO DISCRETIONARY RELIEF POLICY**

The Panel has recommended that the Council's existing Discretionary Relief Policy is amended so that fully qualifying newly built and unoccupied non domestic properties completed from 1st October 2013 to 30th September 2016 will be eligible for 100% discretionary rate relief for a maximum period of up to 18 months. The cost of any relief awarded by the Council will be reimbursed by the Government.

#### **23. BUDGET UPDATE**

Given that the Local Government draft settlement had not yet been published, the Facing the Future reviews were only partially complete and other key financial data was not yet available, the Panel noted that a draft Budget for 2014/15 and Medium Term Plan had not yet been prepared. In the circumstances the Panel has examined proposed variations for inclusion within the budget and Medium Term Plan. In doing so, Members have discussed in detail:

- ◆ the Base Budget;
- ◆ progress in achieving savings which form part of the approved Medium Term Plan;
- ◆ progress in achieving targeted savings;
- ◆ additional savings proposals;
- ◆ proposals for increasing the budget for specific projects or purposes;
- ◆ schemes where rephrasing is unavoidable or proposed; and
- ◆ technical items.

Subject to:

- ◆ confirmation being received of the requirement in the stated timescale for additional provision for work on the development of Wyton Airfield, and
- ◆ the inclusion of information on the pay review, the senior management review and the Chancellor's Autumn Statement

the proposed variations have been endorsed.

The Panel's comments have been conveyed to the Cabinet. A briefing note will be distributed to Members on the Local Government draft settlement once it has been received.

**24. TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE:  
6 MONTHLY REVIEW**

In order to fulfil its role of overseeing the management of the Council's financial investments and borrowing, the Panel has reviewed the Council's treasury management activity for the period 1st April to 30th September 2013. The report has been considered by the Cabinet and appears elsewhere on the Council Agenda.

---

**Other Matters of Interest**

---

**25. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

The Panel has received the Notice of forthcoming Key Executive decisions, which has been prepared by the Executive Leader.

**26. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL (ECONOMIC WELL-BEING) –  
PROGRESS**

The Panel has reviewed its programme of studies.

**27. SCRUTINY**

The Panel has received the latest edition of the Decision Digest.

T V Rogers  
Chairman