

Scrutiny Sub-Committee for Corporate Management Issues

21st November 2005



Scrutiny Budget Working Group – Progress Report

Report of Head of Overview and Scrutiny

Purpose of Report

1. To explain the progress made to date by the Scrutiny Budget Working Group in discussions with Chief Officers about Service budgets.

Background

2. A series of meeting with Chief Officers has been timetabled to provide the opportunity for non-executive members to have a deeper understanding of Service budgets and to raise important issues and to provide background information when the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is consulted about next year's budget.
3. Discussions started with a meeting involving Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive, and Stuart Crowe, County Treasurer. The Chairman of the Working Group shared his vision of the Council's future budget prospects following discussions with his local community. This was that any Council Tax increase should be contained and that investment and improvement in services should be funded wherever possible by savings and efficiencies.
4. Meetings have now taken place with seven Chief Officers. A meeting with Chris Tunstall, Deputy Chief Executive (Policy and Improvement) will take place on 30th November and the process will be completed by a further meeting with Stuart Crowe, County Treasurer, on the 21st December to deal with the financial service but also to raise any general issues.
5. A summary of the discussions with each of the Chief Officers which have taken place so far is attached for information.

Recommendation

6. You are asked to note this report.

Contact: Ian Mackenzie Tel: 0191 383 3506
