

At a meeting of the MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on THURSDAY, 15TH DECEMBER, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Tate in the Chair

Councillors Anderson, G. Miller, Oliver, Walker, S. Watson, Wilson and Wood.

Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members and Officers introduced themselves to Mr. Gavin Barker, Engagement Lead and Senior Audit Manager, Audit Commission.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mordey, Rolph and Stewart.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 10th November, 2011

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10th November, 2011 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

Audit Commission Annual Audit Letter 2010/2011

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report attaching a copy of the report considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 7th December, 2011 (copies circulated) providing details of the Audit Commission Annual Audit Letter covering the year 2010/2011.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Malcolm Page, Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services commented that the Annual Audit Letter was extremely positive and provided a strong endorsement of the financial management and planning and governance arrangements in place across the Council. The report provided an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and an unqualified Value for Money conclusion. The report confirmed that the Council had robust arrangements in place to ensure its financial resilience and had prepared for the economic challenges facing public services through the Sunderland Way of Working.

Mr. Gavin Barker, Engagement Lead and Senior Audit Manager, Audit Commission proceeded to address the Committee. He advised that he was representing Steve Nicklin, the District Auditor who was unable to attend that evening.

Mr. Barker advised that the District Auditor had issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements on 30th September, 2011. He highlighted the challenges and key issues for the Council detailed in the letter and the ways in which the Council was addressing these issues.

Mr. Barker briefed Members on the Value for Money criteria and key messages. He highlighted that the key challenges for the Council were to closely monitor the 2011/12 budget and take early action if budget savings were not being delivered and closely monitor the impact of the SWITCH (Staff Working in Transition and Change) programme and take action to mitigate any shortfall in order to achieve a positive outturn.

Mr. Barker commented that it was important that the Council remained open to considering difficult decisions. Its service assessment approach had delivered a range of new approaches to service provision and it was actively developing a range of alternative forms of service delivery and new and innovative ways of working.

Mr. Barker thanked the Committee for the opportunity of presenting the report to them and the Council's Officers for the work they had done with the Audit Commission.

Mr. Barker then proceeded to brief the Committee on the proposed audit arrangements for the future following the changes being made with respect to the Audit Commission.

Councillor G. Miller commented that he was delighted that the Council's accounts for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 had now been signed off and there had been a resolution of the objections.

The Chairman congratulated the Council's Officers and the Cabinet on the magnificent result they had achieved in getting such an extremely positive Annual Audit Letter and the Audit Commission for the work they had carried out with the Council. He added that the District Audit Team had always worked well with the Authority over the years to achieve the best for the Council for the benefit of people of the City.

Councillor G. Miller suggested that a letter of congratulations to the Officers involved and the Cabinet be sent on behalf of the Committee for the work they had done.

In response to Members discussion concerning the future audit arrangements, Mr. Barker advised that although the audit practice was to be outsourced, one of the roles the Audit Commission would have would be to maintain consistency of approach. The Audit Commission would be setting the standards and monitoring the service provided to Councils.

2. RESOLVED that the City Council's Annual Audit Letter for 2010/2011 and the information brought out during the discussion be received and noted.

Variation of Agenda

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that item 7 of the agenda, a report on 'LGC The Future of Overview and Scrutiny Conference – Feedback', be considered following the Audit Commission Annual Audit Letter 2010/2011, as the Head of Scrutiny and Localism needed to leave the meeting following consideration of the item.

LGC The Future of Overview and Scrutiny Conference – Feedback

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Conference which was held on 8th November, 2011.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman and Head of Scrutiny and Localism having both attended the Conference proceeded to provide verbal feedback.

The Committee was advised that the morning session had concentrated on the Localism Act and updates had been provided on the health reforms and police reforms. The afternoon session had concentrated on sharing good practice, looking at the approach to engagement and examples of where Authorities had shown to be good value. The work the 12 North East Councils had undertaken together on the regional review of the health of the ex Service community had been highlighted as an example of good practice.

Ms. Charlotte Burnham, Head of Scrutiny and Localism added that Scrutiny at the Council as always was shown to be well delivered in comparison to other Councils and the event had served to raise Sunderland City Council's profile. Ms. Burnham advised that she would make available any papers provided at the Conference for Members information in the Scrutiny Room.

3. RESOLVED that the report and the verbal feedback from the Conference delegates be received and noted.

Policy Development and Review 2011/12: Progress on Reviews

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an update on the progress in relation to the two policy reviews being undertaken by the Management Scrutiny Committee into Self Regulation and Illegal Money Lending.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer briefed the Committee on the report and advised that a focus group in relation to the 'At What Cost?' Policy Review into Illegal Money Lenders and High Cost Credit Providers' had been held earlier that day and had been well attended. The final two workshops on Self Regulation would be arranged for January/February 2012.

Councillor G. Miller commented that last month's Management Scrutiny Committee meeting which Tony Quigley the Head of the Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) in England, had attended and provided a presentation on the work of the IMLT had been excellent. He stated that he had subsequently noticed the National Campaign warning the public about Illegal Money Lenders and promoting the advice and support the Team could provide and commented that he hoped residents were taking notice.

Mr. Cummings advised that publicity material and business cards had been supplied to him by the IMLT and asked Members to let him know if they required a supply.

Councillor Anderson commented that having cards which provided details of the IMLT available for people to pick up was a discreet way in which to help them find alternatives to going to an illegal money lender.

4. RESOLVED that the information in the report be received and noted.

Performance Report Quarter 2 (April 2011 – September 2011)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing the Committee with a performance update relating to the period April to September 2011. This quarter the report included a summary of:-

- changes to the national performance management arrangements;
- key performance issues for the first six months of 2011/12 reported to each Scrutiny Committee;
- progress in relation to a range of 'Corporate Health' indicators relevant to Management Scrutiny.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Mike Lowe, Head of Performance Improvement briefed the Committee on the report and the performance issues arising from the other six Scrutiny Committees as follows:-

Children, Young People and Learning

Members of the Committee were interested in receiving trend data in relation to the PI's listed below:

NI059 - % of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral;

NI062 - % of children looked after at 31st March with 3 or more placements during the year; and

LP1049 – pupils eligible for FSM progressing 2 levels in Maths KS1-KS2.

Community and Safer City

Questions were asked and more detail requested on the level of young people re-offending and questions were also raised about what level of support was in place to help these young people.

Members noted that the overall crime figures were positive and the Police were praised for their work. However concern was raised in relation to the potential effect of cuts and the potential impact on the improvements made.

The Neighbourhood Police Teams across the City were commended for their work and for having a visible impact on the street. However concerns were raised over current Police cuts and the impact that these may have. It was hoped that the visible appearance of the Neighbourhood Police Teams wouldn't slip as a result of pending cuts.

Environment and Attractive City

The main issues raised at the Committee were as follows:-

Street Lighting and the seven day target;
Lack of house building and demolition of derelict properties;
The position on recycling garden/waste bins.

Health and Wellbeing

The Committee welcomed the format of this report which was readable with accessible information.

The Committee was interested in future arrangements for self-regulation and how this would be robust and include views of the public.

The Committee was concerned that overall there were too many targets not achieved or declining.

Prosperity and Economic Development

Just two issues were raised from the Committee as follows:-

Performance indicators were being developed that better reflect and measure performance on the priorities of the Council e.g. progress on the Economic Masterplan.

The level and trend of unemployment remained a major concern. It was hoped that the recent announcement on the new Wear Bridge and the award of an Enterprise Zone would help levels of unemployment in the City.

Sustainable Communities

The following issues were discussed:-

Falling numbers of leisure centre/swimming pool users/sport and leisure generally.

Housing supply.

Empty properties were not actually listed on the report, Members felt it should be in the 'basket' and were keen on getting information around this and developing it as a performance indicator.

Councillor Oliver commented that the level of early retirements from the Council was low and enquired what was being put in place to increase the number.

Mr. Lowe responded that he would ask the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development to provide Members with a written response in this respect.

Councillor Wood referred to paragraph 4.1.4 concerning the statement that 'whilst the majority of residents in Sunderland feel safe in their local neighbourhood, fewer believe Sunderland as a whole is safe compared to the force average.' He enquired whether this was an issue common to all cities or whether it was an issue just in Sunderland.

Mr. Lowe undertook to get a response to Councillor Wood's enquiry.

Councillor Anderson commented that this related to the fear of crime and not feeling safe when you were out of your own neighbourhood was something that could restrict people's lives.

Councillor G. Miller commented that Sunderland was the safest city in the North of England and did not know what more there could be done to make residents realise this as the message had been given out several times but people simply chose not to believe it. He added that the way the city was sometimes portrayed in the media did not help to convince people as stories were not included in the local press about how unlikely it was that you were going to be assaulted.

Councillor Oliver advised that he had raised this issue with the Editor of the Sunderland Echo. He commented however this was not the kind of story that sold newspapers. Councillor Oliver added that older people often found groups of young people menacing when they were on their own, this was down to their perception of the situation as they were feeling vulnerable.

Councillor Walker referred to the performance indicator around processing new housing benefit claims. He expressed concern that caseloads had increased and this added to the reduction in resource to process the claims had resulted in a decline in performance and that this may result in people losing their homes. He added that the situation was only going to get worse due to the economic situation the country was facing.

The Chairman suggested that an appropriate officer from the Housing Benefits Team be asked to attend a future meeting of the Committee to inform Members of what measures would be taken to streamline the processing functions in order to improve performance and process housing benefits claims more quickly.

Mr. Lowe advised that the impact of the Welfare Reforms was a huge and significant challenge and Ms. Fiona Brown, Head of Transactional Services was leading a corporate project on this. There would be an opportunity for the Management Scrutiny Committee to engage with this project and invite Ms. Brown to attend a future meeting.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the findings within the report, including areas of good progress made by the Council and those areas that need further improvement highlighted in the report, be noted;
- (ii) responses to Members' questions as detailed above be obtained and circulated; and
- (iii) an appropriate officer be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee with regards to the issue raised concerning the processing of housing benefit claims.

Scrutiny Work Programmes for 2011/12

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching for information the variations to the Scrutiny Committee work programmes for 2011/12 and providing the opportunity to review the Committee's own work programme for 2011/12.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that the variations to the Scrutiny Committees' work programmes for 2011/12 and to the Management Scrutiny Committee's own work programme be noted.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st December, 2011 – 31st March, 2012

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items in the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1st December, 2011 – 31st March, 2012 which relate to the Management Scrutiny Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

A copy of the latest version of the Forward Plan for the period 1st January, 2012 to 30th April, 2012 was tabled at the meeting.

Councillor Oliver referred to entry 01555 concerning the decision to agree the procurement by tender of three replacement operational vehicles for Streetscene to the value of £350k to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 15th February, 2012. Councillor Oliver asked that further information be provided as to the cost of the vehicles.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) a note be provided to all Members of the Committee concerning the cost of the three replacement operational vehicles for Streetscene as detailed above; and
- (ii) the Executive's Forward Plan for the above period be received and noted.

The Chairman wished everyone the compliments of the Season and closed the meeting.

(Signed) R.D. TATE,
Chairman.

REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 11TH JANUARY, 2012

REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2012/2013

Report of the Head of Law and Governance

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 To set out for advice and consideration of this Committee a report which will be considered by Cabinet on the 11th January, 2012 on the provisional budget proposals, as the basis for consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement.
- 1.2 Members' views are requested in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

2. Background and Current Position

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting held on 11th January, 2012, will give consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services on the Revenue Budget Proposals 2012/2013 (Appendix A):-
 - (a) to advise that following the receipt of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on 8th December 2011, attention had been given to the impact of the settlement on the Budget Planning Framework for 2012/2013 established and approved by Cabinet at its October 2011 meeting; and
 - (b) to report the provisional budget proposals for 2012/2013 as the basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2012/2013 and final approval of the 2012/13 Budget in due course.
- 2.2 The report contains a number of issues for Cabinet to consider and approve and it is passed to this Committee in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.
- 2.3 Attached, for information to assist this Committee in providing advice and consideration to Council on the provisional budget proposals are the following reports:
 - Calculation of the Council Tax Base in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Appendix B) as reported to Cabinet on 11th January, 2012; and

- The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2012/2013 (Appendix C) as reported to Cabinet on 11th January, 2012.

2.4 Copies of 11th January, 2012 Cabinet agenda have been circulated to all Members of the Council. The decisions and recommendations of the Cabinet will be reported orally to the Scrutiny Committee.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The report is referred to this Committee for advice and consideration. The comments of this Committee will be reported to the Council meeting on 25th January, 2012.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is invited to give advice and consideration on the attached joint report of the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Cabinet Agenda, 11th January, 2012.

5.2 A copy of the Agenda is available for inspection from the Head of Law and Governance or can be viewed on-line at:-

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm5/Meetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/7221/Committee/1485/Default.aspx>

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CABINET MEETING – 11 JANUARY 2012 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I	
Title of Report: Revenue Budget 2012/2013 Proposals	
Author(s): Chief Executive and Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services	
Purpose of Report: To report the provisional budget proposals for 2012/2013, as a basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2012/2013.	
Description of Decision: Cabinet is requested to approve the provisional budget proposals, as a basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2012/2013.	
Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes – it is seeking to inform a future decision to change the Budget and Policy Framework for 2012/2013.	
If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework	
Suggested reason(s) for Decision: To enable constitutional requirements relating to the development of the Revenue Budget to be met.	
Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: There are no alternative options recommended for approval.	
Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? No	Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Management
Is it included in the Forward Plan? No	

REVENUE BUDGET 2012/2013 PROPOSALS

Report of the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Following the receipt of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on 8th December 2011, attention has been given to the impact of the settlement on the Budget Planning Framework for 2012/2013 established and approved by Cabinet at its October 2011 meeting.
- 1.2 This report sets out the provisional budget proposals for 2012/2013, as a basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2012/2013 and final approval of the 2012-13 Budget in due course.

2. Description of Decision

- 2.1 Members are requested to approve the provisional budget proposals, as a basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2012/2013 and final approval of the 2012-13 Budget in due course.

3. Impact of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on the Budget Planning Framework for 2012/2013

- 3.1. The outcome of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2012/2013 was announced on 8th December 2011 and is the subject of a separate report on this Cabinet agenda. The provisional settlement for 2012/2013 forms the second year of a two year settlement covering 2011/2012 and 2012/2013, and contains provisional information in respect of 2013 – 2015.

A brief summary of the main impact of the settlement on the budget position is set out below.

3.2 Overall Resources (Revenue Spending Power) for 2012/2013

- 3.2.1 In presenting the provisional Local Government Settlement and its impact on local Council's the Government refer to the concept of "Revenue Spending Power" to describe the changes to Local Government funding. A Local Authority's "Revenue Spending Power" is made up from a combined total of:

- Council Tax Requirement,
- Formula Grant allocation,

- Specific Core Grants, and
- NHS funding for Social Care.

3.2.2 The table below shows the overall Resources Position for 2012/2013 compared to 2011/2012 as defined by the Revenue Spending Power concept.

	2011/12	2012/13	Changes	
	Original £m	Provisional £m	£m	%
Council Tax Requirement	95.185	95.185	0.000	0%
Formula Grant	158.102	148.185	(9.917)	(8%)
Council Tax Freeze Grant 2011/12 - ongoing	2.377	0.000	(2.377)	
Early Years Intervention Grant	15.651	16.263	0.612	4%
Learning and Disabilities	11.056	11.327	0.271	2%
Preventing homelessness	0.216	0.216	0.000	0%
	282.587	271.176	(11.411)	(4%)
NHS Support for Social Care	4.339	4.154	(0.185)	(4%)
Transitional Grant	0.267	0.000	(0.267)	(100%)
Total Revenue Spending Power	287.193	275.330	(11.863)	(4%)

3.2.3 The table shows the Council is facing a loss in its overall resources of £11.863m equivalent to a 4% reduction. The provisional settlement is largely as anticipated within the Budget Planning Framework reported to Cabinet in October 2011 with the exception of the following:

- Council Tax freeze Grant for 2011/2012 of £2.377m has been reclassified by Government into Formula Grant with no net variation in the total anticipated grant. This funding is time limited and will cease in 2015/2016.
- Early Intervention Grant allocation for 2012/2013 of £16.263m includes an additional allocation of £0.326m over that previously anticipated in the Budget Planning Framework reflecting a specific increase in funding to support the expansion of the 2 year old offer from April 2012. It is therefore proposed that this increase in funding is passported to Children's Services for this purpose.

3.2.4 It was agreed as part of the Budget Planning Framework that the net increase in the Learning Disabilities Funding and NHS Support for Social Care be taken into account at the corporate level as investment plans for 2012/2013 incorporate these pressures.

3.2.5 As previously anticipated the Council does not qualify for any Transition Grant in 2012/2013 resulting in a reduction in resource available of £267,000.

3.2.6 The position for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 is very uncertain at this stage due to the ongoing uncertainty regarding public sector finances, the impact of the Local Government Resource Review and the impact of Welfare Reform. However, the Treasury has indicated that they are to reduce Local Government Department budgets in 2013/14 and 2014/15 by an amount equating to an additional cut of 2.1% compared to that already announced in the Spending Review 2010. In very broad terms, this could potentially indicate a further reduction in formula grant for Sunderland of £18.2m over the period 2013-2015 i.e. £5.8m more than anticipated in the budget planning framework. This potential impact will be considered as part of the ongoing development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget from 2013/2014 onwards.

3.3 Other Core Grants and Revenue Grant Funding

3.3.1 In addition to the core grants notified within the settlement set out in the table in section 3.2.2 the following other revenue grant funding streams are anticipated:

	2011/12	2012/13	Changes	
	Original £m	Provisional £m	£m	%
Other revenue grant funding				
Community Safety Fund	0.311	0.157	(0.154)	(50%)
Extended Rights to Travel	0.154	0.191	0.037	24%
Lead Local Flood Authorities	0.121	0.158	0.037	31%
Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities	0.014	0.014	0.000	0%
Housing and Council Tax Benefit	3.383	3.162	(0.221)	(7%)
New Homes Bonus - 2011/12	0.577	0.577	0.000	0%
New Homes Bonus - 2012/13 provisional	0.000	0.575	0.575	100%
Council Tax Freeze Grant 2012/13 - one -off	0.000	2.378	2.378	100%
Total	4.560	7.212	2.652	58%

3.3.2 A reduction of £154,000 in 2012/2013 in the Safer and Stronger Communities grant represents year 2 of the planned three year reduction. In accordance with the approach agreed as part of the Budget Planning Framework it is proposed that this grant reduction be passported to the related services.

3.3.3 In accordance with the approach adopted for 2011/2012 it is proposed that the amount passported to Extended Rights to Free Travel and Lead Local Flood Authority services be frozen at the level passported (£0.215m) with the balance available to support the corporate position (£0.134m) in 2012/2013

3.3.4 The reduction in Housing and Council Tax Benefit grant was notified to the Council after the Budget Planning Framework was presented to

Cabinet in October but, as Members are aware, this has been built into the planning assumptions over recent months in relation to the level of savings required.

- 3.3.5 The New Homes Bonus Grant is intended to incentivise local authorities to build and bring into use more homes, with a special emphasis on creating more affordable housing. The level of grant awarded is based on the increase in housing stock through new build properties and through returning empty properties back into use. Given the overall resource position it is proposed that this resource is taken into account corporately to support Capital Programme priorities in 2012/2013.
- 3.3.6 On 14th November 2011 the Government announced a one off council tax freeze grant equivalent to a 2.5% increase in council tax for 2012/2013 to compensate Councils who choose not to increase their Council tax in that year. The grant is offered to Councils on a one off basis. A provisional allocation of grant amounting to £2.378m has been notified, however the actual sum that would be received will be amended in accordance with Council tax base figures.
- 3.3.7 The PFI core grant has also not yet been confirmed but the allocation for the council is not expected to change from the previous years.

3.4 Schools Funding

- 3.4.1 The Government confirmed in the 2011/2013 spending review that school funding would be maintained at a flat cash rate per pupil until 2014/2015, with the new pupil premium as additional funding.
- 3.4.2 The actual level of budget for each individual school will vary and some schools may see cuts in their budget, due in the main to reductions in pupil numbers as in previous years. The Government is to apply a national protection arrangement for schools – the minimum funding guarantee – whereby no school will see a reduction compared to its 2011/2012 budget (excluding sixth form funding) of more than 1.5 per cent per pupil before the pupil premium is applied.
- 3.4.3 Dedicated Schools Grant

Funding for Sunderland schools continues to be influenced by reductions in pupil numbers. The October census data shows that pupil numbers are expected to reduce by 274.

The table below details the potential call on the total indicative funding available:

	2011/2012	2012/2013	Variance
Pupil Numbers	38,784	38,510	(274)
Guaranteed Unit of Funding (GUF)	£5024.78	£5024.78	
	£m	£m	£m
Total Indicative Funding Available	194.881	193.505	(1.376)
ISB Delegated to Schools	181.024	179.324	(1.700)
Rates	2.446	2.857	0.411
Total ISB Budget	183.470	182.181	(1.289)
School Block - Other Expenditure	11.411	11.324	(0.087)
Total Indicative Call on Funding	194.881	193.505	(1.376)

3.4.4 Pupil Premium Funding

In 2012/2013 the amount available nationally for the Pupil Premium will double to £1.25 billion. It will further rise to £2.5 billion by 2014/2015. This increase in funding will enable the Pupil Premium to be extended to pupils who have been eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) at any point in the last 6 years, while at the same time increasing the level of the Premium from £488 to £600 per pupil.

Schools have the freedom to spend the Premium, which is additional to the underlying schools budget, in a way they think will best support the raising of attainment for the most vulnerable pupils. To ensure transparency and accountability, schools will be required from September 2012 to publish on-line information about how they have used their Pupil Premium allocations.

Based on DfE figures Sunderland is expected to have 12,030 eligible children that will provide £7.198m to Sunderland Schools, an increase of £2.807m from the final 2011/2012 allocation of £4.391m.

In order to maximise income to schools through pupil premium grant the Council is actively pursuing a way of identifying those pupils who are eligible for free school meals but whose parents have not made an application through the normal route. This is anticipated to increase uptake of Free School Meals and therefore potential eligibility for the Pupil Premium.

The pupil premium is paid to the local authority as part of the pupil premium grant. It must be passed on in its entirety to schools.

3.4.5 Schools Funding Consultation

A national review is currently being undertaken on the future distribution of school funding. The Government is seeking to develop a clear and transparent funding formula that supports the needs of pupils and enables Schools and Academies to be funded on a broadly comparable basis.

Any planned changes will result in movement of funding between Schools and areas. In order to provide stability in school funding, transitional arrangements will be applied to ensure that the reforms are introduced at an appropriate speed that is manageable for Schools. The current funding system for Schools will continue in 2012/2013 and the consultation will consider the right time to introduce any new system.

3.4.6 Academies Top Slicing

In addition to the School Funding consultation, the Government is reconsidering the reduction to Local Authority funding and the transfer of resources to the DfE made as part of the two year Local Government settlement for 2011/2012 and 2012/2013, to reflect the transfer of central services from local authorities to Academies. The consultation sets out the evidence the Secretary of State will use to consider the appropriate level of transfer and the proposed basis for calculation of the transfer.

As part of the 2011/2012 settlement the Council had its formula grant reduced by £674,000. Further consultation has recently been released and it is expected that no additional reduction to funding will be applied in 2012/2013. In future years changes in the methodology to be used will see this sum increase to reflect the increase in the number of Academies.

3.5 Capping Powers and Reserve Powers

3.5.1 The Localism Act received royal assent on 15th November 2011 and provides for the provision of referendums to veto excessive council tax increases. This effectively places a limit on council tax increases and if councils exceed the government limits then the public will be able to vote to agree or veto any considered 'excessive' increase.

3.5.2 As part of the settlement the Government has issued guidance on capping rules. In accordance with the Localism Act any increase above these levels may require a referendum:

- 3.5% for most principal authorities,
- 3.75% cent for the City of London;

- 4% for the Greater London Authority, police authorities, and single purpose fire and rescue authorities.

3.6 Council Tax Freeze Grant

3.6.1 The settlement also confirms the second year funding for the 2011/12 Council Tax freeze. This funding will be provided until 2015/2016 to compensate councils for not increasing their council tax in 2011/12.

3.6.2 As set out in paragraph 3.3.6 the one off council tax freeze grant for 2012/2013 has only been offered to compensate those Authorities who decide not to increase their Council tax in that year. Should the Council opt to freeze Council tax it is proposed that this sum would be used to fund one off spending pressures identified within the budget planning process rather than fund ongoing recurring expenditure.

4. Budget Planning Framework

4.1 When the Budget Planning Framework was approved in October 2011 Cabinet agreed to follow the approach that has been adopted over the last two years. The majority of the initiatives which will meet the savings requirement represent a continuation of previously identified plans including :

- Progressing the existing Improvement Plan and Programmed Savings
- Development of Three Year Improvement Plans to reshape services to meet needs

4.2 It was agreed that the following spending commitments would be taken into account:

- The planning assumptions to be based on the Government assumptions of a two year pay freeze for public sector workers (2011/2012 and 2012/2013) as built into its SR10 spending plans, except for those workers earning less than £21,000 a year. Beyond 2012/2013 prudent assumptions included;
- price increases be included on the basis of prudent assumptions in respect of:
 - Independent Care Providers;
 - Energy costs which remain volatile;
 - Other contractual obligations.
- provision across the medium term taking account of the results of the Actuarial review of the Local Government Pension Scheme 2010, covering three years to 2013/2014.
- provision be made for spending commitments in respect of:
 - debt charges and interest receipts;
 - landfill tax and waste disposal strategic solution;
 - additional vehicles leasing costs in respect of the 'blue bin' recycling scheme;

- the impact of demographic changes in respect of adult social care;
- pressures relating to safeguarding and external placements;
- service pressures as a result of the economic downturn;
- Replacement of one off resources utilised in setting the 2011/2012 budget of £5.420m.

5. Provision for Spending Pressures and Commitments

5.1. At this point in the preparation of the Revenue Budget for 2012/2013, it is proposed to make provision to address a number of spending commitments and pressures as set out below:

5.2. Cabinet Secretary

5.2.1 Capital Financing

Prudential borrowing has been provided for within the medium term financial position in relation to known investments over that period, together with a provision to provide future flexibility at this stage to enable strategic priorities of the Council to be addressed.

5.2.2 Port Dredging

Dredging of the Port is required yearly to maintain advertised depths in order to enable the Port to continue to operate commercially. This will follow initial dredging works to be carried out in 2011/2012.

5.2.3 Integrated Transport Levy

For planning purposes further savings in respect of the ITA levy for 2012/2013 are based on an additional 5% saving being achieved in accordance with the approach agreed by the Tyne and Wear Joint Services Committee during the 2011/2012 budget setting process

5.2.4 Workforce Planning

A range of workforce planning measures are in place to support the smooth implementation of savings proposals. Costs arising from voluntary early retirement can be accommodated from specific resources earmarked for this purpose. In addition the Medium term financial position provides for the cost of SWITCH through to 2013/14. Transitional costs as a result of implementing this strategy are continually refined and reviewed.

5.3 Health and Well Being

The following proposals are made:

Adult Services Demand / Demographic Issues

The need to ensure appropriate care and support across the range of care needs continues to place pressure on Adult Social Services budgets. In addition, client expectations and increasing demand to support clients with complex needs, to maintain independence and to invest in reconfigured services all require additional investment. With

these pressures in mind the Government has announced additional funding for PCTs over the coming four years, with an expectation that the funding is passported to Local Authorities for investment within Social Care services.

The impact of additional cost pressures and necessary investment have been factored into plans.

5.4 Children and Learning City

The following proposals are made:

Safeguarding – External Placements

There continues to be increasing demand pressures in relation to safeguarding and specifically external placements and prudent provision has been made for this purpose.

Adoption Allowances

As a result of recent statutory guidance and case law, changes to the amounts to be paid are required in respect of Adoption Allowance, Special Guardianship Allowance or Residence Allowance.

5.5 Prosperous City

The following proposals are made:

Economic Downturn

Given the continuing uncertainties in relation to the impact of the economic downturn, and impact on areas such as leisure centres income appropriate provision has been made and will be kept under review.

5.6 Sustainable Communities

The following proposals are made:

Carbon Reduction

The Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficient Scheme (CRCEES) is a mandatory carbon trading scheme, that came into effect on 1st April 2010. Participation is a legal requirement for organisations that used a minimum of 6,000 MegaWatt hours of electricity during the calendar year 2008. Sunderland City Council is required to participate in the scheme. The first sale of allowances will be in April 2012, based on 'footprint' data from 2010/2011. A prudent provision is proposed in this regard.

5.7 Attractive and Inclusive City

The following proposal is made:

Waste Disposal

The impact of cost variations in relation to waste disposal have been factored into the Medium Term Financial Strategy including landfill tax, volume of waste, recycling implications, and the impact of implementing the Waste Disposal Strategic Solution.

Winter Maintenance

Following the severe winters over the last two financial years additional costs have been incurred in respect of winter maintenance. It is therefore considered prudent to include a sum of £0.800m for planning purposes in line with the additional cost incurred in each of the last two years.

Apprentices Street Scene

Provision has been included for the impact of the implementation of the apprenticeship scheme within Street Scene

5.8 Overall Spending Commitments Position

The table below shows the summary position in relation to spending commitments for 2012/2013 through to 2014/15, which it is proposed are provided for within the planning framework at this stage.

	2012/13 £m	2013/14 £m	2014/15 £m
Pay Pensions and Other Cost Pressures	2.31	4.34	5.66
Waste Disposal	1.26	0.85	0.48
Financing Capital Programme	2.50	2.50	3.00
Carbon Reduction	0.32		
Service Demand / Demographic Pressures - Health Housing and Adult Services	1.45	1.89	2.07
Children's Services - External Placements and Adoption Allowances	0.68		
Winter Maintenance	0.80		
Port Dredging	0.22		0.08
Economic Downturn	0.24		
Apprentices - Street Scene	0.23	0.05	0.29
ITA Levy	-0.90		
Total Spending Pressures	9.11	9.63	11.58

6. “One off” Spending Pressures

6.1 There are a number of other one off revenue spending priorities that have been identified and are proposed which accord with key strategic priorities. They include:

- Inward Investment - £1.0m
To provide enhanced Inward Investment activity relating to key sectors of the city economy including automotive, advanced manufacturing and software, in order to continue to attract new businesses and jobs to the city
- Private Housing Stock Survey - £0.030m.
To carry out a revaluation of private housing stock across the city – as part of a 5 year rolling programme. This will support strategic housing planning.
- Design and Print Review - £0.130m
To address transitional costs arising from the implementation of the Design and Print Review as services move to the new service model from April 2012
- Olympics 2012
To support city activity relating to the 2012 Olympics.
- Wellness Equipment renewal £0.250m
To support the update of equipment to enable income levels to be maintained on an invest to save basis.

7. Summary Funding Gap

7.1 The provisional settlement taken together with spending pressures has confirmed that the gap in Council funding is broadly as anticipated in the Budget Planning Framework. The position is summarised below.

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	£m	£m	£m	£m
GOVERNMENT GRANT CHANGES	39.9	13.6	11.9	9.7
COST PRESSURES				
Spending Pressures	9.7	9.1	9.6	11.6
Transitional "One Off" costs of operating SWITCH	8.3			-8.3
Replacement of One Off savings		5.4	2.2	
ESTIMATED PRESSURES / FUNDING GAP	57.9	28.1	23.7	13.0

7.2 It is important to emphasise that the figures above do not include any further potential impact of the recent Settlement announcement in 2013/14 or 2014/15 at this stage.

8. Proposals to meet the funding gap 2012/2013

8.1 As part of the Budget Planning Framework for 2012/2013 Cabinet agreed in October 2011 to progress the approach to meeting the funding gap by:

- Progressing the existing Improvement Plan and Programmed Savings which aims to meet needs and achieve savings while protecting as far as possible frontline services and maximising non frontline savings. This comprises:
 - Strategic and Shared Services
 - ICT
 - Property Rationalisation and Smarter Working
- Continuing with the Development of Three Year Improvement Plans to reshape services to meet needs with the aim of:
 - Protecting core services particularly those most vulnerable
 - Modernising social care and giving people greater choice
 - Ensuring customer service is at the heart of service delivery
 - Ensuring services are responsive to local needs
 - Targeting resources
- Developing alternative methods of service delivery
- Investing to support growth

8.2 The provisional settlement has confirmed that the gap in Council funding for 2012/13 is broadly as anticipated and therefore the previously proposed approach remains both relevant and appropriate. Progress in relation to proposals to meet the funding gap of £28.1m are set out below:

	Programmed Savings			
	2011/12 £m	2012/13 £m	2013/14 £m	2014/15 £m
Strategic and Shared Services	7.92	6.00	10.42	2.50
ICT	0.67	0.49	0.23	0.00
Smarter Working	0.77	1.09	0.69	0.02
Plans	48.56	15.38	13.99	6.05
Corporate Resource		2.90		
Programmed Savings	57.92	25.86	25.33	8.57

Further detail about the savings proposals set out below

8.3 Improvement Plan Proposals – The Sunderland Way of Working

Office of the Chief Executive & Commercial & Corporate Services

In accordance with the plans outlined in 2011/2012 reviews of support services are entering the second stage and will continue to provide significant savings which will be taken into account in the 2012/2013 budget and over the medium term. Plans are being implemented in respect of the following key strands of business:

- **Strategic and Shared Services – Saving £6.0m**
Further reconfiguration of support services to meet the future requirements of the Council. This also involves continuing to refine and implement new standardised ways of delivering support services by redesigning processes and using ICT to maximise efficiencies.
- **ICT - Saving 0.5m**
Reorganising the staffing structure of the service to consolidate the centralised ICT function and remove duplication. The restructure of ICT follows a review and automation of processes to enable more efficient support to be provided to Directorates.
- **Property Rationalisation and Smarter Working – Saving £1.0m**
Continuing to review the asset portfolio of the Council and rationalise the number of properties required. Through maximising the use of space available and utilisation of the lowest number of locations additional savings will continue to be made on running costs.

8.4 Continuation of Directorate Three Year Improvement Plans

Most of the plans that are being progressed represent a continuation of the work that has been progressing during the current financial year. The reviews seek to gain a comprehensive understanding of customer need and how best that need can be met in respect of front line and other services in the most productive manner. This includes involving communities and people who use services in the design of outcomes based services. The details of reviews for each Directorate are set out below:

8.4.1 Children's Services Reviews - £2.2m

- **New Relationship with Schools**

Children's Services in partnership with schools are developing a school to school support network to develop school improvement. The proposals are consistent with the Education Act (2011) and the future

role of the LA. For 2012/2013 the new agreements are designed to provide income via provision of the most valued elements of educational services to best meet youngsters needs in respect of School Improvement, Educational Psychology and Attendance services.

- **Safeguarding**

This review is continuing to implement the Looked after Children Strategy which involves investment in foster care which will reduce reliance on external placements and residential children's homes leading to improved outcomes for Children. In 2012/2013 the full year impact of closing Williamson Terrace residential home in October 2011 will be achieved reflecting the reduced need for residential places and there will be procedural changes to other services which will lead to efficiency savings.

- **Review of Children's Services Structures**

This reflects the full year effect of structure change commenced in 2011/2012 with the focus on early intervention, prevention and locality based integrated service delivery for children's services.

- **Review of Services for Young People**

This range of reviews are being undertaken which will involve the Integration of Youth Offending early intervention Services into Locality Based working and a review of activities for young people to ensure that the same outcomes can be achieved by better commissioning. Efficiencies are also anticipated from reviewing services in response to the transfer of responsibility for universal impartial careers guidance to schools.

8.4.2 Health Housing and Adult Services Reviews - £7.4m

The reviews are a continuation of modernisation and improvement plans previously reported to Cabinet with an emphasis on increasing choice and control, supporting independent living, ensuring equal access to services and delivering overall improvement to people's health and well being.

- **Future Models of Care and Support**

Review of existing Care and Support services for Adult Social Care with a view to developing alternative models of care which meet customer need. The review will look to provide more community based activity and will look to maximise the usage of existing building based facilities.

- **Expansion of Reablement**

The on-going development of the Adult Social Care Re-ablement services to ensure more people maintain their independence within their own homes. Expansion of this service will reduce reliance upon, and cost of on-going services such as home care and

ultimately prevent admissions to residential and nursing care. This will be achieved through the provision of initial intensive support and rehabilitation services for people.

- **Implementation of Personalisation**
The implementation of personalisation will allow individuals to have choice and control in respect of the care and support they receive to meet their assessed need and prevent admissions to residential and nursing care. The Council's strategy centres around this principal.
- **Developing the market.**
This review will continue to work with the Adult Social Care provider market and partners to develop cost effective solutions to meet peoples care and support needs. This will include reaching agreements with the independent provider market and other partners for services for all client groups that incentivises quality but contain costs.
- **Review of Housing Related Support**
Review existing external and internal services which are currently funded through the Housing Related support function with a view to commissioning services which meet customer needs and provide value for money through a reduction in overall costs.

8.4.3 City Services Reviews - £5.8m

- **Facilities Management Review**
This ongoing review will deliver savings through reviewing and remodelling buildings maintenance, building cleaning, grounds maintenance and catering functions.
- **Transport and Fleet Management Review**
This ongoing review will release savings by establishing an integrated transport unit by January 2012, a management information system by March 2012 and by commissioning activities through the most appropriate providers.
- **Review of Responsive Local Services**
This review will release savings from integration of Parks into the Street Scene Responsive Local Services model.
- **Reprioritisation of Highways Maintenance Budget**
The review of the Highways Maintenance Budget will improve prioritisation and targeting of resources ensuring the focus remains on priority areas, including pothole repairs.
- **Culture**

This review will release savings through an integrated approach to delivering the Resorts and Tourism Service and review of services relating to the Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums service.

- **Regulatory Services**
Savings will arise by establishing locality based teams undertaking a broad range of regulatory activities in a more flexible and responsive way.
- **Customer Services – End to End Redesign**
Implementing a programme of end to end service redesigns that relate to processes that start with the customer journey and will remove non value adding activity from processes. Savings will also be delivered through implementing a new ICT platform, the rationalisation of ICT systems, web self service and channel shift.
- **Sport and Leisure - Leisure Facilities**
Savings will be achieved through the development of alternative delivery options for leisure facilities including a review of shift patterns of staff.

8.4.4 Other Savings Reviews - £2.9m

The remaining savings will be delivered following a review of corporate contingencies and third party spend third party spend e.g. equipment, utilities, highways and building maintenance spend.

8.5 Use of Balances

After taking account of total programmed savings for 2012/2013 of £25.86m, there remains a funding gap of £2.2m. At this stage it is proposed to utilise transitional funding held in balances on a temporary basis pending achievement of forecast additional savings in 2013/2014.

9. Overall Position

- 9.1 Taking into account savings proposals and anticipated use of balances at this stage would enable a balanced budget position to be achieved for 2012/2013 as set out below:

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	£m	£m	£m	£m
GOVERNMENT GRANT CHANGES	39.9	13.6	11.9	9.7
COST PRESSURES				
Spending Pressures	9.7	9.1	9.6	11.6
Transitional "One Off" costs of operating SWITCH	8.3			-8.3
Replacement of One Off savings		5.4	2.2	
ESTIMATED PRESSURES	57.9	28.1	23.7	13.0
TOTAL SAVINGS PROPOSALS	-57.9	-25.9	-25.3	-8.5
FUNDING GAP	0.0	2.2	-1.6	4.5
Use of Transitional Funding / Temporary financing		-2.2	3.5	-2.6
Assumed Council Tax Increase @ 2.0% (for scenario planning purposes only)			-1.9	-1.9
NET POSITION	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

9.2 Outstanding Uncertainties

At this stage however, there are a number of uncertainties still to be resolved in relation to next year's budget, including:

- transitional costs in relation to the implementation of savings proposals;
- the outcome of the Final Local Government Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2012/2013 and related grant announcements;
- the final Collection Fund position.

In addition, it will be necessary to consider the outcome of further consultation to take place on the budget.

10. Budget Consultation

10.1 The Budget and Policy Framework procedure rules contained within the Constitution of the Council requires consultation on budget proposals to take place. In October 2011 Cabinet approved proposals regarding the consultation strategy and framework for the budget for 2012/2013 and proposed briefings to the following stakeholders:

- Trade Unions;
- North East Chamber of Commerce / Representatives of Business Ratepayers;
- Voluntary Sector;
- Youth Parliament;
- Schools Forum, Head Teachers and Governors.

10.2 In addition to the above stakeholder consultation, a survey was undertaken to gain an understanding of views on the direction of travel

for the following services in responding to the changing financial landscape:

- Regeneration
- Children's Services
- Street Scene Services
- Culture, Sport and Leisure
- Adult Social Care

- 10.3 To supplement the survey, workshops were held, with Community Spirit panel members and representatives from the voluntary and community sector, in different locations throughout the city.
- 10.4 Initial findings of the survey and discussions at the workshops demonstrate general support amongst respondents for the councils overall approach to making savings.
- 10.5 To date budget consultation with these groups has concentrated on the direction of travel for services in order to gain views. Further detailed consultation in relation to each of the proposals will be undertaken as each proposal is developed.
- 10.6 At each stage in the budget preparation process Management Scrutiny Committee is being consulted.
- 10.7 The findings from consultation undertaken to date indicate that the provisional budget proposals in this report are consistent with the summary findings.
- 10.8 This report will become the basis for second stage consultation. Elements of the consultation undertaken to date, which has not yet been fully analysed, together with the results of the second stage of consultation will be considered in framing the final budget proposals to be submitted to Cabinet in February, 2012

11. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 11.1 In accordance with the approach followed in previous years the Council continues to fully consider the impact of its plans by following a robust approach to equalities analysis. Appendix 1 sets out the approach adopted to the budget setting process.

12. General Balances

- 12.1 A Statement of General Balances is attached at Appendix 2.
- 12.2 As reported at the Second Revenue Review Report to Cabinet, some savings have been generated in 2011/2012 from Interest on Balances and Debt Charges, and unutilised contingency provisions. However, any savings generated will be required to fund one off spending pressures

and transitional costs associated with implementing the budget proposals.

12.3 The balances position will be updated / reviewed as the budget is progressed. A full risk analysis will be presented with the final budget proposals to the February meeting of Cabinet.

13. Suggested Reason for Decision

13.1 To enable constitutional requirements relating to the development of the revenue budget to be met.

14. Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected

14.1 There are no alternative options recommended for approval.

Background Papers

Local Authority Finance (England) Revenue Support Grant 2012/2013 and related Matters

Budget and Planning Framework 2012/2013 (October 2011 Cabinet)

1. SUNDERLAND APPROACH TO MEETING EQUALITY OBLIGATIONS**Equality Analysis**

- 1.1 The Council has long-standing established mechanisms for assessment of equality impact. Procedures continue to be refined and developed, most recently to encompass the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, which for the first time brings together equality protections, requirements and responsibilities in a single piece of legislation.
- 1.2 The Council has developed a refreshed approach to equality analysis which replaces the previous INRA (Impact and Needs Requirement Assessment) process. This refreshed approach integrates equalities into broader consideration of impact and provides a simple user-friendly framework which enables those developing policies, undertaking service reviews or improvement actions and undertaking service planning and decision-making to analyse the potential positive outcomes and negative impacts across the protected characteristics. It also provides space to include other priorities and socio-economic factors.
- 1.3 The refreshed approach includes a comprehensive guidance document that provides in-depth information about the purpose of the analysis and step-by-step information on completing the analysis. The guidance offers explanations of terms, questions to consider and broader context to stimulate discussion. It emphasises that the bedrock of good quality analysis is effective consultation, engagement and use of data. This is accompanied by a short 'recording' document to log the impacts and actions. The recording document leads people through the relevant questions to stimulate discussion and develop appropriate responses. This approach has been taken by a number of other authorities.
- 1.4 This approach has been developed in line with the new guidance and legal requirements included in the 2010 Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty. It also reflects a more general shift towards greater emphasis on considering the needs and requirements of individuals and analysis of the impact a service or decision may have. This enables the combined impact on those with more than one 'protected characteristic' to be included.
- 1.5 Due to a recognition that comprehensive analysis requires wide engagement and input, the approach supports and actively encourages information to be gathered from a range of sources including:
 - The results of engagement with protected groups and others
 - Professional knowledge
 - Population data
 - Service-user feedback
 - Consultation responses

- Research intelligence

1.6 Requirements for delivery of services against a background of reducing resources will undoubtedly result in changes to the way many services may be delivered in the future. As part of the decision making process equalities analysis will continue to be at the forefront of the approach in order to meet legal requirements and reflect the needs of residents and service users. This requires good quality analysis, effective consultation, engagement and the use of data.

2.0 How equality analysis has fed into the budget-setting process

2.1 Proposals for additional savings coming forward through the budget preparation process will undoubtedly result in changes to the way many services may be delivered in the future. As part of the decision making process equalities analysis will continue to be at the forefront of the approach in order to meet legal requirements and reflect the needs of residents and service users. Ensuring equality analysis is applied to budget setting in a consistent and comprehensive way is a key component of the budget process.

2.2 Each Directorate has undertaken equality analysis of their proposals, as appropriate, using the revised Council equality analysis approach building on existing robust arrangements. This has been supported by Strategy, Policy and Performance Management (People and Neighbourhoods Team). The detail of the analysis is dependent on the nature of the proposal and its stage of development. For those proposals which are not sufficiently detailed to undertake a full equality analysis at the present time an initial consideration of the impacts has been undertaken. In these cases further analysis when the proposals are further developed will be undertaken.

3. Consultation

3.1 Consultation and engagement are central to Sunderland's approach to equality and diversity and as such a key part of the equality and diversity awareness has been for equality groups to be involved in the budget consultation process. To achieve this consultation has included an online survey as well as targeted events for groups such as Community Spirit (the Residents' Panel), the Voluntary and Community sector and Equality Fora of the Sunderland Partnership. The Equality Fora cover a range of protected characteristics including disability, sexuality, faith and belief, race and age.

4. Key Messages

4.1 Individual proposals for additional savings are currently at different stages of equality analysis depending on the stage of the development of the proposal. In summary, the equality analysis can be summarised as follows:

- Equality analysis complete at this stage with:
 - identified impacts and actions, or
 - identified data/intelligence gaps, meaning that action is needed to address these gaps before repeating the equality analysis.
- Initial considerations of equality analysis have been undertaken and services have already identified potential impacts on particular groups and are planning further detailed equality analysis as the proposals are further developed.
- No impact on service delivery, but will have impacts on the Council as an employer. In these instances where there are only impacts as an employer, equality analysis will be undertaken by HR and OD.

4.2 The large scale and wide-ranging nature of changes to business approaches and structures will have implications for the Council in terms of meeting its own objectives for a diverse workforce and each change to the business practices of the Council will need to be analysed for potential equality implications.

4.3A number of the proposals provide the opportunity for improving equality and diversity of provision through more tailored and personalised approaches and greater opportunity for independent living which will better meet the needs of individuals. These changes however could also impact on the cost-effectiveness of some services provided and will require individual support to ensure individuals; particularly those with protected characteristics receive the best options for their own situation.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The Council continues to seek to meet its obligations in relation to equality and diversity and has procedures in place at both a general and budget specific level to incorporate equality and diversity issues into decision making processes and the assessment of proposals.

5.2 The challenging financial circumstances do not remove the need to give due regard to removing and avoiding harassment, discrimination and victimisation in relation to the protected characteristics, and this remains a legal obligation. Undertaking appropriate and comprehensive equality analysis will assist the Council to provide the best possible service which meets the needs of the diverse people of the City.

5.3 The current equality analysis does highlight some areas where actions to mitigate the potential negative implications of the proposals will be needed. These will be taken forward by the services and directorates to assess how this may be achieved. Similarly there are some areas where a full equality analysis is not possible at the current stage of proposal development. Where a proposal includes a review of services a full and/or

updated version of the equality analysis will be undertaken and published as proposals are shaped.

Appendix 2

Statement of General Balances

	£m
Balances as at 31st March 2011	12.419
Use of Balances 2011/2012	
- Contribution to Revenue Budget (approved as part of 2011/2012 budget)	(4.849)
Sub total	7.570
Other Additions to and Use of Balances during 2011/2012	
- Debt Charges and other Contingency Savings (Reported Second Revenue Review October 2011)	4.000
- Transfer to Strategic Investment reserve to support transitional costs (Reported Second Revenue Review October 2011)	(4.000)
Estimated Balances 31st March 2012	7.570

The above position will be reviewed and updated and reported to Cabinet as part of the final budget proposals in February, 2012.

The above shows that balances will remain at £7.570m – transitional funding will be used to support the budget over the medium term as proposals are implemented

CABINET MEETING – 11th January 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Council Tax Base 2012/2013

Author(s):

Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Purpose of Report:

To detail the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2012/2013 and to seek approval to recommend to Council the Council Tax Base for 2012/2013 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is recommended to recommend to Council:

The report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2012/2013 be approved.

That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2003 the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2012/2013, shall be £81,202, and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be £4,130.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?

Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

To comply with statutory requirements.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

None.

Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution?

Yes

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

Management

Is it included in the Forward Plan?

Yes

Cabinet – 11th January 2012

Council Tax Base 2012/2013

Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To detail the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2012/2013 and to seek approval to recommend to Council the Council Tax Base for 2012/2013 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

2. Description of Decision

Cabinet is recommended to recommend to Council:

- 2.1. The report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2012/2013 be approved.
- 2.2. That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2003, the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2012/2013, shall be £81,202, and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be £4,130.

3. Background to the Calculation of the Council Tax Base

- 3.1 The Council Tax Base is the estimated number of properties in each valuation band adjusted to take account of the estimated number of discounts, disregards and exemptions. The Council levies a Council Tax on the basis of properties in band D and thus the numbers for each valuation band are adjusted to the proportion which their number is to band D to provide a band D equivalent number. The Council must then estimate its level of collection for the year and apply this figure to arrive at the Council Tax Base figure.
- 3.2 The Council Tax Base must be calculated for both the Billing Authority and for the Hetton Town Council (a local parish precept). The Billing Authority Tax Base will be used to calculate the Council Tax for the City Council and is also used by the major precepting authorities (Northumbria Police Authority and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority) to determine their precept requirements.

- 3.3 Under the Council Tax (Reductions for Disabilities) Regulations 1992 properties adapted to meet the needs of a disabled person are charged at a rate equal to the next lowest valuation band. For instance a qualifying band C property would be charged at the band B rate. From the 1st April 2000, the regulations were amended to introduce an additional 'alternative valuation band' (below band A) to allow band A properties to qualify for a disabled reduction. Instead of paying the normal band A charge (six-ninths of the band D charge) a qualifying band A property is charged at five-ninths of the band D charge. For the purpose of the Council Tax Base calculation it is necessary to show Band A properties which qualify for the disabled reduction as if it was an additional valuation band. In the report the 'additional' valuation band is shown as either (A) or Disabled (A).
- 3.4.1 Section 75 of the Local Government Act 2003 and the subsequent Regulations; the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003 gives local authorities the powers to reduce the 50% Council Tax discount on long term empty properties and second homes. With effect from 1 April 2012, it is proposed that there will be no discount offered to long term empty properties and that the discount offered to second homes will be reduced from 50% to the statutory minimum allowance of 10%. A separate report is on this agenda detailing these proposed changes and will put the Council in line with the majority of other Local Authorities in the region.
- 3.4.2 The Council Tax base has gone up by £1,035 Band D equivalents. Most of the increase is as a result of the reduction in discounts for long term and empty homes with the the remainder due to net new build.

4. Calculations of the Billing Authority's Council Tax Base

- 4.1 This calculation is in two parts – 'A' - the calculation of the estimated adjusted band D properties and 'B' - the estimated level of collection.
- 4.2 The calculation of 'A' - the relevant amounts for each band is complex and includes a number of calculations which are shown at Appendix 1.
- 4.3 The relevant amounts 'A' as calculated in Appendix 1 are shown below:

BAND	'A' - RELEVANT AMOUNT	
	£	p
Disabled (A)		98.61
A	44,860.97	
B	11,851.54	
C	12,908.98	
D	7,492.50	
E	3,351.46	
F	1,349.33	
G	919.75	
H		25.80
		<u>82,858.94</u>

4.4 Calculation of Item 'B' - Estimate of Collection Rate

This element of the formula is to reflect the level of collection anticipated. Last year an anticipated collection rate of 98% was assumed. On the basis of current collection levels it is suggested that the collection rate should remain at 98% for 2012/2013.

4.5 Calculation of Council Tax Base

The Council's Tax Base is therefore: 'A' x 'B' = £82,858.94 x 98% = £81,201.76 (for comparison, the tax base for the current year is £80,166.81).

Appendix 2 shows, for Members information, the Tax Base for each property band.

5. Calculation of Council Tax Base for Hetton Town Council - Local Precept

5.1 The rules for calculating the Council Tax Base for the area covered by Hetton Town Council are similar to those used in calculating the Billing Authority's Tax Base. These detailed calculations are shown in Appendix 3.

5.2 The amounts calculated for each band are shown below:

BAND	'A' - RELEVANT AMOUNT	
	£	p
Disabled (A)		7.50
A	2,815.10	
B	660.99	
C	363.69	
D	202.15	
E	95.94	
F	51.49	
G	16.67	
H		1.00
		<u>4,214.53</u>

5.3 The same collection rate is required to be used for Parish precepts as for the Billing Authority. The Tax Base for Hetton Town Council is therefore:

'A' x 'B' (where 'B' is the estimated collection rate) = £4,214.53 x 98% = £4,130.24. (for comparison, the tax base for the current financial year is £4,016.89)

Appendix 2 shows, for Members information, the Tax Base for each property band.

6. Background Papers

Working papers on individual Tax Band calculations.
Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 3012
Council Tax Base Report 2011/2012

Calculation of the Billing Authority's Council Tax Base

- 1.1 Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (S.I. 1992 No. 612) and amended by (S.I. 2003 No. 3012) states that a Billing Authority's Council Tax Base for a financial year shall be calculated by applying the formula -

$$'A' \times 'B'$$

Where 'A' is the total of the relevant amounts for each of the Valuation Bands which are shown or likely to be shown in the Authority's Valuation List as at 30 November in the year prior to the year in question and where 'B' is the Authority's estimate of its collection rate for that year.

- 1.2 As stated above the Council is required to approve the calculation of both items 'A' and 'B' in arriving at its Tax Base.

Calculation of Item 'A' - relevant amounts for each Valuation Band:

- a) Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, states that item 'A' should be calculated by applying the following formula:

$$(H - Q + J) \times (F/G)$$

where H = number of chargeable dwellings
Q = is a factor to take account of discounts of Council Tax payable. It is calculated as $Q = (R \times S)$
R = number of discounts estimated to be payable in respect of these dwellings
S = the percentage relating to each discount classification
J = adjustment (whether positive or negative) in the numbers of dwellings or discounts during the period
F = the relevant prescribed proportions for each Band
G = the relevant prescribed proportion for Band D

- b) The calculation of each of the above items is, where appropriate, to be made in accordance with paragraph 2-11 of Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2003. The different items are to be calculated as follows:

Item H - the number of chargeable dwellings is the sum of:

The number of dwellings listed in each Band in the copy of the Valuation List on the relevant day less an estimate of the number of such dwellings which were exempt on that day.

Item Q – a factor to take account of the discounts to which the amount of Council Tax payable was subject to on the relevant day. It is calculated by taking the aggregate of amounts found by multiplying, for each different relevant percentage, R by S, where:

Item R – the number of dwellings for which the amount of Council Tax payable for the relevant day was reduced. For 2012/2013 the following reductions are to be applied:

- a) Single Person Discount – awarded to properties with only one adult resident
- b) Single Disregard – awarded to properties in which all but one resident has been disregarded
- c) Double Disregard – awarded to properties in which all residents have been disregarded
- d) Second Homes – awarded to all furnished, unoccupied properties

Item S - the relevant percentage. For 2012/2013 the relevant percentage is as follows:

- a) Single Person Discount - 25%
- b) Single Disregard - 25%
- c) Double Disregard - 25% x 2 (50%)
- d) Second Homes - 10% (reduced from 50%)
- e) Long Term Empty properties - 0% (reduced from 50%)

The relevant percentage for items a) to c) above, is calculated in accordance with Section 11 Local Government Finance Act 1992. The relevant percentage for items d) and e) are calculated in accordance with the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003, and Section 11A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and represent the statutory minimum levels applicable.

Item J - the amount of any adjustment in respect of this item is equal to an estimate of dwellings not listed in H above but which will be listed during part or all of the year less an estimate of the number of dwellings listed in H above but which will not be listed for all or part of the year.

Item F - the relevant prescribed proportions for each band are set out in Section 5 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as follows:

Band	(A)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Proportion	5	6	7	8	9	11	13	15	18

Item G - the relevant prescribed proportion for Band D is 9 (as above).

c) The calculation $(H - Q + J) \times (F/G)$

The results of these calculations are shown below.

1.3 Tax Base Calculation $(H - Q + J) \times (F/G)$

	Disabled Band Band	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Item H	190	76,356	16,370	15,464	7,839	2,856	976	593	19
Item Q	12.5	9,024.55	1262.3	981.4	374.5	125.9	49.85	41.15	6.6
Item J	0	-40	130	40	28	12	8	0	0.5
Item F	5	6	7	8	9	11	13	15	18
Item G	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

1.4 Applying the figures in section 1.3 to the calculation $(H - Q + J) \times (F/G)$ produces a relevant amount for each Valuation Band - Item A in Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2003 as follows:

BAND	RELEVANT AMOUNT
	'A'
	£ p
Disabled (A)	98.61
A	44,860.97
B	11,851.54
C	12,908.98
D	7,492.50
E	3,351.46
F	1,349.33
G	919.75
H	25.80
	<u>82,858.94</u>

Council Tax Base - City of Sunderland

Band	Item 'A'		Item 'B'	Tax Base 'A' x 'B'	
	£	p		%	£
(A)		98.61	98		96.64
A	44,860.97		98	43,963.75	
B	11,851.54		98	11,614.51	
C	12,908.98		98	12,650.80	
D	7,492.50		98	7,342.65	
E	3,351.46		98	3,284.43	
F	1,349.33		98	1,322.34	
G	919.75		98	901.36	
H	25.80		98	25.28	
	<u>82,858.94</u>			<u>81,201.76</u>	

Council Tax Base - Hetton Town Council

(A)	7.50		98	7.35	
A	2,815.10		98	2,758.80	
B	660.99		98	647.77	
C	363.69		98	356.42	
D	202.15		98	198.10	
E	95.94		98	94.02	
F	51.49		98	50.46	
G	16.67		98	16.34	
H	1.00		98	0.98	
	<u>4,214.53</u>			<u>4,130.24</u>	

Calculation of Council Tax Base For Hetton Town Council - Local Precept

1.1. The rules for calculating the Council Tax Base for any part of a Billing Authority's area (e.g. Local Parish) are the same as the rules contained in Appendix 1 except that chargeable dwellings and discounts are to be taken for only those dwellings and discounts relating to the area for which the Council Tax Base is to be calculated.

1.2. As in Appendix 1 the rules require the calculations of items 'A' and 'B'.

Item A is calculated by the formula:

$$(H - Q + J) \times (F/G)$$

1.3. The calculations detailed above have been carried out in respect of the Hetton Town Council for each relevant band and the result of the calculations is shown below:

1.4. Tax Base Calculation - Hetton $(H - Q + J) \times (F/G)$

	Disabled Band	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Item H	14	4,750	903	420	209	81	38	12	1
Item Q	0.5	534.35	60.15	22.85	9.85	5.5	2.35	2	0.5
Item J	0	7	7	12	3	3	0	0	0
Item F	5	6	7	8	9	11	13	15	18
Item G	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

1.5 Applying the figures in section 1.4 to the calculation $(H - Q + J) \times (F/G)$ produces a relevant amount for each Valuation Band - Item A in Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2003 as follows:

BAND	RELEVANT AMOUNT
	'A'
	£ p
Disabled (A)	7.50
A	2,815.10
B	660.99
C	363.69
D	202.15
E	95.94
F	51.49
G	16.67
H	1.00
	<u>4,214.53</u>

CABINET MEETING – 11 JANUARY 2012 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET- PART 1	
Title of Report: Provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2012/2013	
Author(s): Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services	
Purpose of Report: This report advises Cabinet of the Provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2012/2013.	
Description of Decision: Members are requested to note the report.	
Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes	
If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework	
Suggested reason(s) for Decision: Consideration of the Settlement forms part of the budget preparation process of the Council.	
Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: Not applicable as report is for information only.	
Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? No	Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Management
Is it included in the Forward Plan? No	

Cabinet Meeting – 11th January 2012

Provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2012/2013

Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report advises Cabinet of the Provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2012/2013.

2. Description of Decision

- 2.1. Members are requested to note the report.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 8th December 2011 the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Local Government, Bob Neill MP, issued the provisional report for the 2012/2013 Revenue Support Grant Settlement.
- 3.2 This follows on from the Government's two year Local Government Finance Settlement covering the years 2011/2012 (Final Settlement) and the Indicative Settlement for 2012/2013 which was issued 7th February 2011. A second two year settlement (2013/14 to 2014/15) will follow, for which the Government is to adopt a new distributional system based on the retention of local business rates.
- 3.3 On 19th December the Government released its detailed response to the consultation, it carried out in the Autumn, on their proposed new retention of business rates system. The announcement provides clarity on most areas although the Government is to consult in the Spring on some further specific areas. The Government has also indicated it will liaise with local government for them to help design the detail underpinning the new system which will be implemented on 1st April 2013 as expected. As such the implications and detail of the announcement will be reported to Cabinet in February.
- 3.4 The details of the Provisional Settlement 2012/2013 are outlined in paragraph 4 below with the effects on the Council outlined at paragraph 5.
- 3.5 Written responses are required by 16th January 2012.

4. National Settlement

4.1 The main features from the settlement include:

- There were no major changes to the Indicative Settlement for 2012/13.
- National Formula Grant funding for all authorities in England is to fall by 7.3% on average in 2012/13.
- A further transitional grant of £20m, increased from the previously announced figure of £14m, for 2012/2013 was announced to protect the 'revenue spending power' (broadly government grants plus council tax precept income) of authorities where funding would fall by more than 8.8% in order to help minimise reductions for authorities facing exceptional decreases in their overall revenue funding position. This funding helps 12 shire district authorities.
- Damping will continue in 2012/2013 with floors remaining unchanged:

Social services authorities	-7.4% to -10.4%
Shire districts	-11.2% to -14.2%
Police authorities	-6.703%
Fire authorities	-3.4%

The different damping figures for social services authorities and shire districts are based on a new banded system which means the most grant dependent authorities have the least reductions.

- The Government has also transferred the separate core revenue ongoing Council Tax Freeze Grant for 2011/12 (£652m nationally) into Formula Grant as Business Rates is expected to increase in 2012/13 to £23.119 billion in total. The main beneficiary of the increase in business rates projected in 2012/13 therefore appears to be Government as the increase in business rates income is being used to fund the ongoing impact of the Council Tax Freeze grant for 2011/2012 which the Government was previously to fund provide separately.
- The Government has also issued its capping criteria for 2012/13 for those councils that do not take advantage of the one-off Council Tax Freeze Grant for 2012/13 as follows:

3.50% for most principal authorities,
3.75% for the City of London and,
4.00% for the Greater London Authority, Police authorities,
and single purpose Fire and Rescue authorities.

They have also indicated that any increase in excess of the increases set out above will be subject to a local referendum.

4.2 Other Announcements

- Government confirmed a one-off Council Tax Freeze Grant for 2012/2013 already announced earlier in the year which is equivalent to a Council Tax increase of 2.5% for Sunderland.
- A separate consultation has been announced for Academies - there will be no further adjustments to Formula Grant for 2011/2012 and detailed proposals have been released by Government for 2012/2013 which are the subject of a separate consultation which closes on 12th January 2012. The proposals will however have no adverse impact on formula grant in 2012/2013.
- The Treasury also announced that they are to reduce the CLG - Local Government Department's budget by £240m in 2013/14 and a further £257m in 2014/15. Early indications show that this could mean up to a further 2.1% cut to local government funding in each of these years in addition to the funding cuts already set out in the Spending Review 2010.

Effects on Sunderland

- 5.1 As set out in paragraph 4 above, the Council's formula grant entitlement for 2012/2013 of £145.808 million has remained unchanged from the indicative figures announced in February 2011 however the Council Tax Freeze Grant for 2011/2012 has been added into the total (£2.377m) so the revised figure of £148.185m is still equivalent to the combined funding of both of these grants in 2012/2013.
- 5.2 Government has not made any changes to the formula grant system, consequently the Authority's formula grant reduction in 2012/2013 has not been affected by the settlement and remains unchanged at £12.294m.
- 5.3 The Council's Revenue Spending Power total for 2012/13 of £275.004m also remained unchanged.
- 5.4 Most of the Council's other revenue grant allocations for 2012/2013 have been announced as part of the Settlement – the details of which are set out in the Revenue Budget Report for 2012/2013 featured elsewhere on the agenda and are as expected with the exception that the Council is to receive an additional £0.326m of the Early Intervention Grant which is the Council's allocation of the Chancellor's recently announced £68m funding for 2 Year Olds announced in his Autumn Statement. This would increase the Council's revenue spending power to £275.330m, a reduction of £11.863m compared to 2011/2012.

- 5.5 The Government announced in the Autumn Statement that public sector pay would be capped at 1% for the next 2 years after the current pay freeze but they have not provided any additional funding to pay for this which increases further the pressure on local government funding.
- 5.6 Council Tax Freeze Grant for 2012/13 is optional and is a one-off grant which means this funding is not continued into future years unlike the 2011/12 arrangement. It is also based on a 2.5% Council Tax increase whereas the capping limit is 3.5% for the Council. To make the grant more attractive the Government could have set the rates on an equal footing i.e. 3.5% rather than 2.5%. It would also be preferable if this grant was guaranteed into future years so that any council taking up the grant is not financially disadvantaged in doing so.
- 5.7 The Treasury announced a reduction to the CLG - Local Government Department's budget by £240m in 2013/14 and a further £257m in 2014/15. Based on existing formula grant allocations and using some high level assumptions – this shows that the Council could incur greater grant losses of £3.1m in 2013/14 and a further £2.7m in 2014/15 to those already anticipated reductions in formula grant of £12.5m for the 2 years in total. A revised formula grant loss of £18.2m (£5.8m more) is in prospect for Sunderland because of the latest announcement from the Treasury. The scale of the implications to the Council however can only be indicative at this stage as it is unclear how these reductions will be dealt with in the proposed new grant funding system.

6. Reason for Decision

- 6.1 Consideration of the 2012/2013 Settlement forms part of the budget preparation process of the Council.

7. Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected

- 7.1 There are no alternative options.

8. Background Papers

Local Authority Finance (England) – Revenue Support Grant for 2012/2013 and related matters - (Source: DCLG).

Local Authority Finance (England) – Revenue Support Grant for 2011/2012 and related matters - (Source: DCLG).

REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 11 JANUARY 2012

REVENUE BUDGET THIRD REVIEW 2011/2012

Report of the Head of Law and Governance

1. Why has this report come to this Committee?

- 1.1 In accordance with the Management Scrutiny Committee workplan, this report advised of progress in implementing savings proposals for 2011/2012.

2. Background and Current Position

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting on 11 January 2012, gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services. The report gave details of the outcome of the Revenue Budget Third Review for 2011/2012.
- 2.2 Copies of the 11 January 2012 Cabinet agenda were circulated to all Members of the Council.
- 2.3. In accordance with the Management Scrutiny Committee workplan, which requested that the committee be advised of progress in implementing savings proposals for 2011/2012, Appendix A sets out the relevant information from the report which summarises progress.

In overall terms a positive outturn continues to be anticipated.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The matter is referred to this Committee for information.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the positive progress on the implementation of savings proposals for 2011/2012.

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 Cabinet Agenda, 11 January 2012.

5.2 A copy of the Agenda is available for inspection from the Head of Law and Governance or can be viewed on-line at:-

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm5/Meetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/7221/Committee/1485/Default.aspx>

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REVENUE BUDGET THIRD REVIEW 2011/2012 PROGRESS ON MEETING THE SAVINGS REQUIREMENT

Cabinet Meeting – 11th January 2012

4. Efficiency Targets

4.1 The budget process for 2011/2012 took account of the requirement for reductions in expenditure of £57.9 million. As previously outlined to Cabinet, progress in implementing the proposals is being rigorously monitored by Directors in conjunction with Portfolio Holders, using a traffic light system. Monthly budget monitoring is being carried out at an enhanced level to ensure the position is understood and actions put in place to mitigate any impact.

4.2 At this stage, the following is noted:

- £56.3m of the savings has been fully realised of which:
 - £1.5m of reductions are no longer to be achieved as originally intended and will be met from one off savings in year and alternative ongoing savings ;
 - £4.3m are offset, in year, by reductions in Switch costs but will be achieved ongoing for 2012/2013;
 - £7.4m have temporary one-off savings identified for 2011/2012, but will be achieved as ongoing;
 - £1.6m have alternative ongoing savings identified.
- £0.4m are not yet fully achieved but on which good progress has been made with action plans developed, responsibilities assigned and timescales identified. At this stage therefore it is not anticipated that this will impact on the overall financial position of the Council as the saving is anticipated to be achieved.
- Health, Housing and Adult Services (£0.5m)
The Directorate are progressing the three year delivery plans which seek to enable people to receive care associated with their needs and introduce ways of enabling people to live independently in their own homes. Some of these plans will be delivered later than originally planned, however the Directorate have identified alternatives to deliver the required level of savings. The on-going position into 2012/13 at this point, shows a financial pressure of £420,000 due to increased demand for services. This position will be addressed as part of the process for finalising the 2012-13 budget over the next three months.
- £0.7m of reductions are currently forecast to be achieved on an ongoing basis and Directorates are still considering alternatives for meeting the shortfall in this financial year.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW 2011/12: PROGRESS ON REVIEWS

Report of the Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress in relation to the two policy reviews being undertaken by the Management Scrutiny Committee into self regulation and illegal money lending respectively.

2. Background

- 2.1 Initial scoping documents were presented to the Committee on the 14th July 2011 which set out proposed terms of reference for each of the reviews. At its meeting on 15th September, 2011 the Committee considered scene setting reports for both reviews into self regulation (now titled Demonstrating Local Accountability: A look at the emerging national Self Regulation Framework and implications for the Council) and illegal money lending (now titled At What Cost: The Effects of High-Cost Credit and Illegal Loan Sharks on Local Communities).

3. Demonstrating Local Accountability: Policy Review - Update

- 3.1 The second workshop into Self Regulation took place on Tuesday 13th December 2011 and was aimed at focusing on the peer challenge strand of self regulation through looking at a number of examples from within the authority. The scrutiny function peer review and the recent peer challenge of Children's Safeguarding were used as illustrations.

Overview of the Peer Review/Challenge Process

- 3.2 A major aspect of self regulation is the peer challenge and the Local Government Association (LGA) is keen to promote this tool through the offer to councils of a free peer challenge between now and March 2014.
- 3.3 Peer challenges are not similar to previous inspection regimes like CAA in that they are less prescriptive and are aimed at improvement not judgement.
- 3.4 Peer challenge teams are made of a mix of officers and members that best reflect the main focus of the peer challenge and these team compositions are agreed with councils in advance. In fact the selection of the peer challenge team can be as important as the peer challenge itself.

Scrutiny Peer Review

- 3.5 The Scrutiny Peer Review was undertaken in 2008 and was based upon the 4 principles of good scrutiny:
- Critical Friend Challenge;
 - Reflect the voice and concerns of local communities;
 - Take and lead the scrutiny process;
 - Impact on service delivery.

- 3.6 The team for the review was Robin Stonebridge (ex-Rotherham MBC), Jill Rouse (IDeA) and David Armin (IDeA).
- 3.7 The review team first carried out a survey via questionnaire to get the views of Members and Senior Officers. Following this a workshop was held for Members (14 attended). The team was on site for 3 days in September 2008 where they reviewed documentation, held a number of interviews and focus groups and observed 2 scrutiny committee meetings.
- 3.8 The key points of a peer review from the scrutiny experience were as follows:
- Provided an independent view;
 - Driver for change and improvement;
 - Provided a reality check;
 - Tailor the review to suit the service/organisation.
- 3.9 It was noted that Cabinet, at the time, were not involved in the peer review. It was recognised that the view of Cabinet would be just as relevant in such a review and it was worth bearing this in mind for the future.
- 3.10 It was highlighted by the group that there can be a tendency to say an objective has been achieved when this may not be the case. It was seen as important that any recommendation arising from a peer review/challenge was signed off only when completely achieved.
- Children's Services: Safeguarding – Peer Challenge**
- 3.11 Meg Boustead, Head of Safeguarding – Children's Services, attended the focus group to provide some informative feedback from the very recent peer review undertaken in the Safeguarding Service.
- 3.12 It was noted that the peer challenge was useful in that it provided a different perspective on the service from peers. It was also highlighted that the peer challenge was not a one-way street and that the reviewers also took learning back with them. One of the key advantages of the peer challenge was the high degree of honesty that takes place during discussions and the less guarded approach than during a formal Ofsted inspection visit.
- 3.13 The group discussed the accountability issues around the action plan resulting from a peer challenge and how it was important to share this and the learning from the peer challenge with the scrutiny function. It was noted that scrutiny would be the appropriate place to be to hold the action plan to account and demonstrate progress on the actions within it.
- 3.14 It was recognised that self regulation would not work without the requisite peer challenge and perhaps a more regional arrangement would be required. It was also noted that even if a council was recognised as doing better than everyone else, if that actually meant being the least worst was this the ideal?

Summing Up from Workshop

- 3.15 It was noted that the 'old' model of peer challenge was very much providing a benchmark and did not have the flexibility of the new style challenge. The new peer challenge has identified new areas to work and also helped shape the community leadership programme.
- 3.16 In developing self regulation it will be important to develop products that are fit for purpose as the landscape is still very much populated by a regime of inspection. The LGA document 'Taking the Lead: The LGA peer challenge offer' reflects the new approach and it is important that peer challenge builds on the honesty angle that the approach brings. As the approach develops and increases in use it will most likely lead to a suite of peer challenges that can be tailored to each individual service or organisation.

4. At What Cost? : Policy Review - Update

4.1 A focus group was held on Thursday 15th December 2011 with Members of the Management Scrutiny Committee meeting with a number of service providers from across the city to discuss issues related to the policy review looking at high cost credit and illegal money lending.

4.2 Some of the key points arising from the discussions were as follows:

- Wearside First has now gained approval from FSA to change into a Community Bank and will be known in future as Bridges Community Bank. To further strengthen the credit unions position they have joined forces with South Tyneside's Credit Union, enabling them to enjoy savings on economies of scale e.g. a shared IT system.
- The majority of loans that Credit Unions offer are from £1,000 to £5,000 but they can offer up to £10,000. The maximum % rate is 2% which is 26.2% APR. Whereas banks front load interest on a loan, community banks only charge interest on the length of term of the loan.
- Credit unions can help with debt consolidation and enable their clients to reduce their monthly out goings. All clients are encouraged to open savings accounts, even if they only save £1 a week. Clients are offered advice and are encouraged to borrow less. It was also noted that the demand for Christmas loans had been phenomenal.
- One major issue is that there are several generations of families that for a variety of reasons have never saved. This directly impacts on encouraging young people to save. South Tyneside has approximately 17 schools in South Tyneside in a savings programme, and it would be something to encourage and promote in Sunderland too.
- It was also highlighted that currently churches and similar organisations are unable to hold accounts with credit unions. However legislation is changing and soon organisations such as sports halls and churches will be able to use credit unions, thus creating new business opportunities.

- Christians Against Poverty (CAP) started 15 years ago and now have 190 centres around the country, with a head office in Bradford. CAP work in partnership with the church offering free debt advice. Initially they make a home visit, set a manageable budget and negotiate with the clients creditors. Often due to their relationship with creditors they can reduce or eliminate further interest charges. CAP also encourages people to save.
- It was highlighted that they give out leaflets and have advertised articles in the echo, but generally it is by word of mouth. CAP also has a free phone number to book in appointments; however it was pointed out that they may not be able to take the client on if loan sharks are involved or if the person is in too much debt.

4.3 The full note of this workshop is attached at **Appendix 1** of this report.

4.4 The timetable for this policy review is attached as **Appendix 2** of this report.

5. Next Steps

5.1 The third workshop in the series of four is set to take place on Thursday 2nd February at 4 pm in Committee Room 1. This workshop aims to look at the LG Inform and Knowledge Hub resources that are available to Councils. The final workshop will be arranged to take place in late February/ early March 2012.

5.2 The North East Joint Member / Officer Scrutiny Network will take place on Friday 27th January 2012, and will consider self-regulation and improvement in local government. Mark Edgell, Regional Associate, LGG will be in attendance at the meeting to talk to members about the opportunities and challenges of self-regulation and regarding the LG Group programme and key proposals. The Network will also consider the role of scrutiny in the new framework. The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) has been continuing to work with the LG Group and others to promote the importance of overview and scrutiny in holding local authority decision-makers and services to account in the new environment of less central regulation and inspection. The meeting takes place on 27th January 2012 at 10am in committee room 6.

5.3 A working group is take place in relation to the review into Illegal Money Lending and High Cost Credit on Monday 23rd January at 5pm, in Committee Room 3.

6. Recommendations

6.1 That the information in the report is noted.

Background Papers

Management Scrutiny Committee Papers - Minutes

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Management Scrutiny Committee

Focus Group: At What Cost – Money Lending?

Thursday 15th December 2011

Present: Cllrs Tate, Walker, Watson, Wilson and Wood.

Also Present: Theresa Finch (Christians Against Poverty UK), Gavin Hennessey (Bridges Community Bank), Dorothy Gardener (Sunderland MIND), Nigel Cummings (Scrutiny Officer) and Linda Kaya (Scrutiny and Area Arrangements Support Officer).

Notes

Members of the Management Scrutiny Committee attended a focus group meeting with a number of service providers from across the city to discuss issues related to the policy review looking at high cost credit and illegal money lending. The main points from this discussion were as follows:

Bridges Community Bank

GH, Chief Executive – Bridges Community Bank, explained that South Tyneside Credit Union had gone through difficulties and in order to attract funding from Government they successfully turned the Credit Union around through the formation of a Community Bank.

Wearside First Credit Union, based in Sunderland, was also experiencing difficulties and was finding it hard to attract funding. Wearside First has now gained approval from FSA to change into a Community Bank and will be known in future as Bridges Community Bank. To further strengthen the credit unions position they have joined forces with South Tyneside's Credit Union, enabling them to enjoy savings on economies of scale e.g. a shared IT system.

It was noted that a community bank is a small organisation offering basic lending services, Bridges have 10 staff and are also supported by volunteers. They have re-branded and now have several collection points throughout the city.

The majority of loans that Credit Unions offer are from £1,000 to £5,000 but they can offer up to £10,000. The maximum % rate is 2% which is 26.2% APR. Whereas banks front load interest on a loan, community banks only charge interest on the length of term of the loan.

Why had Sunderland Credit Union failed in the first place and what had GH's organisation done differently to make it successful?

GH explained that the organisation had not been managed properly by the previous Board. The Board members didn't have the expertise or the skills to run the organisation. South Tyneside Community Bank had experienced staff

including bank advisors and accountants. Wearside Credit Union had been largely run by the volunteers who weren't supported. The volunteers are still involved and will continue to work at the credit union. The merger with South Tyneside is due to go ahead in February/March 2012.

How will the credit union will assist the most vulnerable people?

GH reported that the credit union can help with debt consolidation and enable their clients to reduce their monthly out goings. All clients are encouraged to open savings accounts, even if they only save £1 a week. Clients are offered advice and are encouraged to borrow less. It was also noted that the demand for Christmas loans had been phenomenal.

What about the potential for future funding?

It was noted that the South Tyneside organisation has secured £175k for three years from the Northern Rock Foundation. However it was stressed that the organisation was not dependent upon the grant, and that they were self sufficient.

Where there any reasons why Wearside Credit Union could not secure grant funding from the Northern Rock Foundation?

It was explained that the Wearside Credit Union was not eligible because the Northern Rock Foundation had issues with the Credit Union's bad history in management. However it was noted that there was a DWP Growth Fund controlled by central government, which was a potential funding avenue.

How can we encourage people to save?

There are a number of initiatives including looking to educated children in schools to save. The organisation has found that there are several generations of families that for a variety of reasons have never saved. This directly impacts on encouraging young people to save. GH explained that there are approximately 17 schools in South Tyneside participating in the programme, plus one of the Academy's.

It was also highlighted that currently churches and similar organisations are unable to hold accounts with credit unions. However legislation is changing and soon organisations such as sports halls and churches will be able to use credit unions, thus creating new business opportunities.

What support was given to South Tyneside Council Credit Union?

It was reported that they received £18k from the council in financial terms. However they also received support from the council in the form of promotions to encourage staff to save with the community bank and hold workshops for council staff.

Are the same staff employed or involved with the running of the Wearside Credit Union?

The credit union was staffed by the same people. It was also reported that one member of staff was being supported through an apprenticeship scheme from 1st January 2012, at Sunderland College. There were also 2 new members of staff, and an application form has been submitted to the SWITCH project.

How do you promote the organisation and its message within the community?

The main way would be through leaflet drops, although only get about 1% take up on such drops, the rest is by word of mouth. It was noted that the organisation is not allowed to cold call on potential clients.

It was suggested that the Community Bank could attend the area committee meetings and make contact with Voluntary and Community Network in Sunderland to make themselves known.

Christians Against Poverty

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) started 15 years ago and now have 190 centres around the country, with a head office in Bradford. CAP work in partnership with the church offering free debt advice. Initially they make a home visit, set a manageable budget and negotiate with the clients creditors. Often due to their relationship with creditors they can reduce or eliminate further interest charges. The applicant has a CAP account, they make one payment into the account then CAP make the payments to the creditors. They can't go overdrawn on their CAP account. The client is given a caseworker from the Lead office. CAP also encourages people to save.

If there are unexpected expenses the local church can support this. They give out food vouchers to clients. They can give a one off payment (£75) to the client take them on a shopping trip for food. Currently the church is giving out Christmas hampers. The organisation is open to everybody.

How many people get in touch with CAP?

It was highlighted that they give out leaflets and have advertised articles in the echo, but generally it is by word of mouth. CAP also has a free phone number to book in appointments; however it was pointed out that they may not be able to take the client on if loan sharks are involved or if the person is in too much debt.

It was also suggested that these organisations could advertise in Community News.

Sunderland MIND

DG explained that Sunderland MIND works with people who have mental health problems. It was highlighted that the organisation offers encounters

issues with the Provident organisation who are taking advantage of these vulnerable people.

Cllr Watson suggested that they publicise the services of Credit Union and CAP at MIND.

DG suggested that both organisations attend their Financial Capability Event.

What are the main financial issues facing your organisations?

Pay Day Loans; Money Shop; Cash Genie; Brighthouse, however you pay these organisations they are subject to high interest rates and charges.

Summing up – Action Points

To explore the possibility of both CAP and the Community Bank attending the 5 Area Committees to publicise their services.

To provide the Community & Voluntary Sector Network with contact details for CAP and the Community Bank.

To explore the possibility of promotion of these organisations in the Community News.

Sunderland MIND to look at both CAP and the Community Bank attending the MIND organisations Financial Capability Event.

MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – POLICY REVIEW PLAN

Timeline	Review Task	Aims & Objectives	Methodology	Contributors
15 Sep 11	Management Scrutiny Committee Formal Meeting	To provide the committee with an approach to the review as well as setting the scene for the work to be undertaken.	Written Report	Scrutiny Officer Trading Standards Officers
Sep/Oct 11	The Council Perspective	To provide the committee with evidence around money lending and associated factors from a local authority perspective.	Focus Group	Scrutiny Officer Various Council Officers
Oct 11	Develop information for local media use.	Raise Awareness of the Review with the Public and encourage public involvement.	Article in the Community New Letter	Scrutiny Officer Communications Team
13 Oct 11	Management Scrutiny Committee Formal Meeting	Progress on the policy review and opportunity for Members to further develop the review.	Written Report	Scrutiny Officer Trading Standards Officers
Oct/Nov 11	Looking at the Support and Help Networks in Sunderland	To gather the views of support groups and organisations in relation to the debt/money lending situation within Sunderland.	Focus Group	Scrutiny Officer Local Debt Advisors, CAB, Community & Voluntary Groups
Nov 11	To look at some of the effects of money lending on local communities and people	To understand the effects of debt and illegal money lending on communities and if crime levels/instances rise as a result.	Focus Group	Police & Local Magistrates Scrutiny Officer
10 Nov 11	Management Scrutiny Committee Formal Meeting	Progress on the policy review and opportunity for Members to further develop the review.	Written Report	Scrutiny Officer Trading Standards Officers
Nov/Dec 11	To look at the local political viewpoint in relation to the review issue	To gather the views of local MPs in relation to high cost-credit and illegal money lending.	Informal Discussion	Local MPs Scrutiny Officer

MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – POLICY REVIEW PLAN

15 Dec 11	Management Scrutiny Committee Formal Meeting	Progress on the policy review and opportunity for Members to further develop the review.	Written Report	Scrutiny Officer Trading Standards Officers
19 Jan 12	Management Scrutiny Committee Formal Meeting	Progress on the policy review and opportunity for Members to further develop the review.	Written Report	Scrutiny Officer Trading Standards Officers
23 Jan 12	To hear evidence from credit providers	To provide the opportunity for credit providers operating in Sunderland to give evidence to the committee	Focus Group	Scrutiny Officer Trading Standards Officers Credit Providers
Jan/Feb 12	To hear evidence from members of the public	An opportunity for members of the public to share their experiences of high-cost credit and/or other forms of money lending.	Focus Group	Scrutiny Officer Trading Standards Officers Members of the Public
Jan/Feb 12	Evidence from the Illegal Money Lending Team	To understand the work of the ILM Team and an opportunity to find out about their work in Sunderland.	Informal Discussion Group	Scrutiny Officer Trading Standards Illegal Money Lending Team
16 Feb 12	Management Scrutiny Committee Formal Meeting	Progress on the policy review and opportunity for Members to further develop the review.	Written Report	Scrutiny Officer Trading Standards Officers
24 Feb 12	The Reflection of Evidence	To look at the evidence gathered and discuss how the report is to be presented. Also look at potential recommendations from the evidence.	Informal Meeting	Scrutiny Officer Trading Standards Officers
March/April 12	Preparation of draft and final reports	To gather all the evidence together, draw conclusions and make recommendations	tbc	Scrutiny Officer Trading Standards Officers

N.B. All members of the Management Scrutiny Committee are contributors at all stages of the review process.

REQUEST TO ATTEND SEMINAR – CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to consider nominating a delegate to the Centre for Public Scrutiny's Parliamentary Seminar to be held on 24th January 2012.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Handbook contains a protocol for use of the Scrutiny Committees budget by members to attend training and conferences relevant to the remit of the Committee.

3. Conference Details

- 3.1 The Parliamentary Seminars aim to give elected members the opportunity to learn about parliamentary scrutiny and discuss what local and national scrutiny can learn from each other. The Seminars provide the opportunity to hear from a chair of a select committee and put questions directly to them. Seminars also include a "Questioning and chairing skills session" which explore the skills needed to evaluate evidence, understand some issues faced in scrutiny, and practice the select committee style of questioning skills. **Appendix 1** of this report provides a draft programme for the event.
- 3.2 The Seminar will be held on 24 January in London and runs from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. It will include opportunities to attend select committee meetings before or after the organised programme, subject to places being available in the audience of the committees.
- 3.3 The CfPS charges a nominal fee of £40 +VAT to cover costs. There will be associated travel costs to London however, previous delegates have indicated that these events offer excellent value for money as the speakers and practical training will be entirely free.
- 3.4 Places are extremely limited for each seminar on a first-come-first-served basis (prioritising authorities which were not able to attend the previous series).

4. Recommendation

It is suggested that the Committee nominates Councillor Michael Mordey to attend the Seminar, to be funded from the budget of the Management Scrutiny Committee.

5. Background Papers
Conference Papers

Contact Officer: Nigel Cummings 0191 561 1006
Scrutiny Officer

Parliamentary Seminars Series - 2012

Venue: Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ



DRAFT PROGRAMME

Participants are encouraged to attend one of the optional live select committee sessions either before or after the formal seminar sessions, in order to experience committee activities first hand.

- 09:30 – 11:00 **OPTIONAL: Live Select Committee Session at House of Commons or Portcullis House**
- 11:00 – 11:15 Welcome refreshments and introduction
- 11:15 – 12:30 How Select Committees Work
Representative from Communities and Local Government Committee, will give an overview of the House of Commons Select Committee scrutiny system. To be advised
- 12:30 – 13:15 Lunch
- 13:15 – 14:15 Select Committee Chair sessions
Group splits into 2.
- 14:15 – 15:30 CfPS chairing skills and techniques session
- 15:30 **OPTIONAL: Live Select Committee Session at House of Commons or Portcullis House**

* For live select Committee sessions please visit the Parliament website 2 days prior to the event:

<http://services.parliament.uk/calendar/#/calendar/Commons/SelectCommittee/2010/10/13/events.html>

MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REQUEST TO ATTEND SEMINAR – CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY 10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

19 JANUARY 2012

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to consider nominating delegates to the Centre for Public Scrutiny's 10th Annual Conference to be held on Tuesday 12th June 2012.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Handbook contains a protocol for use of the Scrutiny Committees budget by members to attend training and conferences relevant to the remit of the Committee.

3. Conference Details

- 3.1 An invitation has been received from the Centre of Public Scrutiny with regard to it's 10th Annual Conference and Exhibition to be held **12 June 2012, at Local Government House, London.**
- 3.2 The title for this years conference is 'Powerful, Accountable, Local' and will explore the theme of 'hyper-local' accountability, by examining the opportunities and potential problems of the changing nature of accountability across local government, health, housing and related fields. The conference will also aim to look at how the ambition to involve more neighbourhoods and communities in service delivery may hamper the ability of councils to effectively make strategic decisions across their local area. Other issues that the conference will look to address include how the scrutiny of public service delivery will be impacted by the growing voice and choice of services users, and how scrutiny can engage with communities at the hyper-local level in the face of tighter budgets.
- 3.3 The conference will allow attendees to learn about the latest developments in local government and public service accountability, share ideas through workshops and networking and listen to high profile speakers discuss how scrutiny can continue to make a positive contribution in the delivery of public services. Confirmed speakers already include Professor Sir Michael Marmot and Ben Page, Chief Executive of Ipsos MORI.
- 3.4 Alongside the Conference is the Officer and Member Development Day, which will only be offered if there is sufficient interest. This will take place on Wednesday 13 June 2012 and will be a full day of interactive learning. It will aim to provide delegates with tools, tips and techniques to increase the impact that scrutiny can have at a local level.

3.4 While the costs of the conference are unknown at this time it has been highlighted that prices will be reduced from the rates of the 2011 conference.

3.5 It is suggested that the Committee nominate a maximum of three Members to attend the Conference along with an appropriate representative from the Scrutiny and Area Arrangements team. Members should also discuss the additional option of attendance at the Officer/Member Development Day.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Committee is asked to consider one of the following options:

- a) attendance of Members and appropriate officer to the CfPS Annual Scrutiny Conference to be funded from the budget of the Scrutiny Committee; or,
- b) attendance of Members and appropriate officer to the CfPS Annual Scrutiny Conference and the additional Officer/Member Development Day.

5. Background Papers

None

Contact Officer: Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer
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MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES WORK PROGRAMMES FOR 2011-12

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

19 January 2012

Strategic Priority: ALL

Corporate Improvement Objective : ALL

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report attaches, for Members' information, the variations to the Scrutiny Committees work programmes for 2011/12 and provides an opportunity to review the Committee's own work programme for 2011/12.

2. Background

- 2.1 The role of the Management Scrutiny Committee is two-fold, firstly it has a role in co-ordinating efficient business across the seven Scrutiny Committees and manage the overall Scrutiny Work Programme and secondly to consider the Council's corporate policies, performance and financial issues.
- 2.2 The aim of its co-ordinating role is to avoid duplication, make best use of resources and to provide a corporate overview of the Overview and Scrutiny Function. As such the remainder of this report outlines the current work programmes of the Scrutiny Committees.

3. Scrutiny Committees Work Programmes

- 3.1 **Appendix 1** sets out the changes this month to the Scrutiny Committee work programmes from those endorsed at the start of the municipal year. Each Scrutiny Committee receives its own work programme in full each month in order to review progress.

4. Management Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme

- 4.1 **Appendix 2** outlines this Committee's full work programme for the year, updated to reflect new additions and amendments requested by Committee as the year has progressed.
- 4.2 Members will recall the State of the City event was held on Wednesday 14th September 2011 in City Space at Sunderland University. The event was an opportunity for the public to express their views, concerns and aspirations as well as to listen to key stakeholders and partners from across the city on the key themes of People, Place and Economy.

- 4.3 As part of the event there were opportunities for members of the public to raise issues and ask questions of the assembled panel. It was suggested by the committee that the key points raised from these discussions may merit further consideration by the relevant scrutiny committee when preparing their work programmes for 2012/13.
- 4.4 *Clinical Commissioning Groups* (Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee) – the issue of one commissioning group for Sunderland was raised and if this would be sufficient for the size and volume of GP practices within the area. Although it was explained that this commissioning group was an umbrella body with five groups below that based on the local authority regeneration areas.
- 4.5 *Sunderland's Vision* (Management Scrutiny Committee) – the issue of what is Sunderland's vision and how this is communicated to local people, residents and young people was raised. It was acknowledged that engagement and communication could be problematic across the city, but the council was proud of its work with young people.
- 4.6 *Houghton Quarry* (Environment and Attractive Scrutiny Committee) – the concerns around air quality in Houghton due to the landfill site was raised. It was acknowledged that Elected Members frequently raised these issues on behalf of their constituents and the major responsibility for the situation belonged with the Environment Agency.
- 4.7 *Perception/Fear of Crime* (Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee) – the issue around the perception and/or fear of crime with actual levels of bad behaviour was discussed through a member of the public raising an individual concern. The police and partners engage in a number of ways to tackle crime and disorder, but are always looking for new and innovative ways to address this and change the public perception of areas.
- 4.8 *Marketing and Perception of Sunderland* (Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee) – the issue was raised about how we promote Sunderland to other parts of the country and it was highlighted that we do market Sunderland both nationally and internationally.
- 4.9 *The economic climate's effect on the city centre* (Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee) - it was queried what effect the current economic climate was having on companies within the city centre and what plans the Council had for the city centre in the future. It was reported that it was important to make the city centre as attractive as possible to investors for when the economy did pick up.
- 4.10 *The transport infrastructure* (Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee) – the subject was raised of what improvements could be expected to the city's transport infrastructure including issues such as extending the Metro to the north side of the river, road improvements, the iconic bridge and port development to attract and support business.

- 4.11 *Regeneration of Roker/Seaburn* (Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee) – the regeneration of the seafront was raised and it was highlighted that the area would be regenerated within the context of the Council's Seafront Strategy and its masterplan for Marine Walk and Seaburn.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That the Committee notes the variations to the Scrutiny Committees Work Programmes for 2011-12 and to its own work programme.
- 5.2 That the Committee notes the issues raised as part of the State of the City Event in preparing work programmes for 2012/13.

6. Background Papers

Scrutiny Committee Agendas – January 2012 cycle of meetings.

Contact Officer: Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer
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	JUNE 9.6.11	JULY 21.7.11	SEPTEMBER 8.9.11	OCTOBER 20.10.11	DECEMBER 8.12.11	DECEMBER 14.12.11	JANUARY 12.1.12	FEBRUARY 23.2.12	APRIL 5.4.12
Cabinet Referrals and Responses		Article 4: Youth Justice Plan 2011/12 (JH/GK)	Cabinet Response to 2010/11 Policy Review – Learning at Work (NC) Article 4: CYPP Annual Report			Evidence Gathering Meeting			Article 4: CYPP Update
Policy Review	Proposals for policy review (NC)	Scope of review (NC)	Approach to the Review (NC)	Update on Policy Review (NC)	Policy Review – Update Expert Jury Event		Policy Review	Policy Review – Update	Policy Review – Draft Report
Performance	Looked After Children and the Court System (MB) Youth Commissioned Contracts (SM)	Schools Performance - Termly Report (MF) Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children (KP)	Provisional KS Results (MF/AB) Performance & VfM Annual Report (BS) Monitoring of Scrutiny Recommendations (NC)	Complaints Annual Report 11/12 (BS) SSCB Annual Report and Business Plan (JV) New Ofsted Inspection Framework (MF)	Ofsted Annual Children's Services Assessment (BS) Performance Q2 April – Sept (BS) Admissions Report Fixed Penalty Notices (MF)		Review of Acute Special Paediatric Service (LT) Outcomes from Unannounced Inspection Early Intervention Core Offer Library Plan (JH)	Verified Key Stage Results (MF) Education Act 2011	Schools Performance – Termly Report (MF)
Scrutiny	Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC) Safe & Sustainable Consultation: Children's Heart Services (NC)	Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC)	Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC)	Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC)	Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC)		Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC)	Corporate Parenting Annual Report (MB) Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC)	Scrutiny Annual Report (NC) Work Programme 2011/12 (NC) Forward Plan (NC)
CCFA/Members items/Petitions									

To be scheduled: Behaviour & Attendance Strategy
School Place Planning
Contact, Referral and Assessment Arrangements – Action Plan

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2011-12

	JUNE 07.06.11	JULY 19.07.11	SEPTEMBER 06.9.11	OCTOBER 18.10.11	DECEMBER 06.12.11	JANUARY 10.01.12	FEBRUARY 21.02.12	APRIL 03.04.12
Cabinet Referrals and Responses			Response to the 10/11 Policy Review – Alcohol, Violence and the Night Time Economy (JD)					
Policy Review	Annual Work Programme and Policy Review 2011/2012 (JD)	Policy Review into Community Cohesion - Scoping Report (JD)	Policy Review into Community Cohesion – Scene Setting (JD)	Policy Review into Community Cohesion -Evidence Gathering (JD)	Policy Review into Community Cohesion – Evidence Gathering (JD)	Policy Review into Community Cohesion – Evidence Gathering (JD)	Policy Review Progress Report (JD)	Policy Review: Final Report (JD)
Scrutiny			Performance Report (Gillian Robinson) Progress on Past Recommendations (JD)		Performance Q2/ Policy Review Progress (Mike Lowe)			Performance Q3/ (Mike Lowe)
Scrutiny (Performance)	Food Law Enforcement (Norma Johnston) Forward Plan (SA)	Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill - Update (Stuart Douglass) Drug Misuse – Update (Leanne Davis) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Emergency Planning (Barry Frost) Neighbourhood Helpline (LSL) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 Work Programme (JD) Forward Plan (JD)	Work Programme (JD) Forward Plan (JD)	Work Programme (JD) Forward Plan (JD)
CCFA/Members items/Petitions								

Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee 2011/12

REASON FOR INCLUSION	JUNE 13.06.11	JULY 25.07.11	SEPTEMBER 12.9.11	OCTOBER 24.10.11	NOVEMBER (TBA)	DECEMBER 12.12.11	JANUARY 16.01.12	FEBRUARY 27.02.12	MARCH 13.03.112	APRIL 02.04.12
Cabinet- Referrals and Responses			Response to the 10/11 Policy Review – Sunderland 'the Place'							
Policy Review	Annual Work Programme and Policy Review (HL)	Scoping Report and Setting the Scene (HL/Les Clark)	Approach to the Review (HL)	Low Carbon Public Transport (Nexus, Go NorthEast, Stagecoach) Policy Review Progress Report (HL)		Policy Review Progress Report (HL) Response to the Review (from city MPs) (HL)	Procurement of Low Carbon Vehicles (Ian Taylor, NEPO) Policy Review Progress Report (HL) Best Practice (HL) Expenditure in support of the Policy Review (HL)	Policy Review Progress Report (HL) Low Carbon Vehicle Sector (TBC) Cost Benefit Analysis - Genex (Les Clark)	Policy Review: Draft Final Report (HL)	Policy Review: Final Report (HL)
Performance			Performance Q1 (Kelly Davison-Pullan) Policy Review Recommendations: Performance (HL)			Performance (Kelly Davison-Pullan)				Performance (Kelly Davison-Pullan) Policy Review Recommendations (HL)
Scrutiny	Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code (Keith Lowes) Forward Plan (SA)	Highways Maintenance (Graham Carr) Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (Neil Cole) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Public Conveniences (Les Clark) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Public Transport (Nexus) Waste Management (Les Clark) Catchment Flood Management Plans (Neil Cole) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Prioritisation Framework for Traffic and Road Safety (1) (Les Clark)	Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Prioritisation Framework for Traffic and Road Safety (2) (Les Clark) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Fawcett St (Les Clark) School Travel Plans (Les Clark) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Local Development Framework (Neil Cole) – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Update • Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment • Employment Land Review • Core Strategy 	Draft Scrutiny Annual Report (HL) Street Lighting Annual Update (Graham Carr/Aurora) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)
CCFA/Members items/Petitions	Request for Inclusion of an Item - Planning Applications (HL)									

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2011-12

	JUNE 08.06.11	JULY 19.07.11	SEPTEMBER 7.09.11	OCTOBER 19.10.11	DECEMBER 07.12.11	JANUARY 11.01.12	FEBRUARY 22.02.12	APRIL 4.04.12
Cabinet Referrals & Responses			Cabinet Response to 2010/11 Hospital Food & Veterans Policy Reviews		Policy Review: Evidence Gathering Day			Policy Review: Community Event
Policy Review	Work Programme & Policy Review – Hospital Discharge & Reablement (KB)	Scope of Policy Review (KJB)	Endorse co-opted representation Setting the Scene – Delayed Discharge (JC/AN) Monitoring Action Plans: Dementia, Home Care, Health Inequalities	Community Health Services (BA) CQC In-patient survey leaving health services		Out of Hours (JU)	Evidence Gathering	
Performance			Q1 Performance Report (SL)			Q2 Performance (ML)		
Scrutiny	Safe and Sustainable: Consultation (KB) Integrated Strategic & Operational Plan (STPCT) Health & Well-Being Board (NR)	Campus Completion Programme (PCT/NTW) Training Standards Care Homes (GK)	Procurement of social care for adults with a learning disability – progress report (PF)	Meals at Home Service (PC) Barmston Medical Centre Procurement (PCT) End of Life Facilities (PCT)		JSNA Consultation (NC) In-patient beds for LD (NTW) Community Covenant	Health Watch (JC) Health Strategy consultation (NC) Sick Children consultation	
CCfA/Members items/Petitions		Request to attend conferences Feedback visit to Wearmouth View						

At every meeting: Forward Plan items within the remit of this committee / Work Programme update

	JUNE 07.06.11	JULY 19.07.11	SEPTEMBER 06.9.11	OCTOBER 18.10.11	DECEMBER 06.12.11	JANUARY 10.01.12	FEBRUARY 21.02.12	APRIL 03.04.12
Cabinet referrals and responses			Response to the 10/11 Policy Review – Low Carbon Economy			Wearmouth Masterplan (ML)		
Policy Review	Annual Work Programme and Policy Review 2011/2012 (JD)	Policy Review - Scoping Report - Aim 1 of Economic Masterplan – University City (JD) Policy Review – Scene Setting (JD)	Policy Review – Evidence Gathering (JD) Visit to Port (JD)	Policy Review - Evidence Gathering – Links with Business	Policy Review – Evidence Gathering (JD) Visit to example of best practice – Sheffield Hallam University (VT)	Policy Review – Evidence Gathering (JD) University of Sunderland visit (JD)	Policy Review Progress Report (JD)	Policy Review: Final Report (JD)
Performance			Performance Q1 (Mike Lowe) Progress on Previous Policy Reviews (JD)		Performance Q2/ Policy Review Progress (Mike Lowe)			Performance Q3/ (Mike Lowe)
Scrutiny	City Centre Improvement Programme – Support for Business(GF) Seaburn Masterplan (KL) Forward Plan (SA)	Work Programme (JD) Forward Plan (JD)	Work Programme (JD) Forward Plan (JD)	North East Chamber of Commerce (Jonathan Walker) Review into Tourism – Feedback (JH) Port of Sunderland – Feedback from Visit (JD) Work Programme (JD) Forward Plan (JD)	Welfare Benefits (Fiona Brown) Work Programme (JD) Forward Plan (JD)	Sub National Economic Development - LEP (JD) Work Programme (JD) Forward Plan (JD)	Low Carbon Economy – Marketing and Communication Strategy (JP) Low Carbon Economy - Role of Small Businesses (JS) Work Programme (JD) Forward Plan (JD)	Work Programme (JD) Forward Plan (JD)
CCFA/Members items/Petitions								

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2011-12

	JUNE 14.06.11	JULY 26.07.11	SEPTEMBER 13.09.11	OCTOBER 25.10.11	DECEMBER 13.12.11	JANUARY 17.01.12	FEBRUARY 28.02.12	APRIL 17.04.12
Cabinet- Referrals and Responses			Response to the 10/11 Policy Review – Role of Culture in Supporting Sustainable Communities (Cllr Kelly)					
Policy Review	Annual Work Programme and Policy Review 2011/2012 (HL)	Policy Review – Scoping (HL) Scene Setting (JDG/VF)	Approach to the Policy Review (HL)	Active Sunderland Board (VF)	Policy Review Progress Report (HL) Community and Education Facilities (HL) 2012 in Sunderland Update (VF)	Sport and Physical Activity Providers (TBC)	Sport and Physical Activity Mapping Exercise (TBC) Sport England (TBC) Priority Sports/Activities (TBC)	Policy Review: Draft Final Report
Performance			Performance Q4 (KDP) Policy Review Progress (HL)		Performance (KDP)			
Scrutiny	Housing Allocations Policy (AC) Forward Plan (HL)	Private Sector Enforcement Policy 2010/11 – Update (AC) Work Programme (HW) Forward Plan (HW)	Empty Property Plan (AC) Work Programme (HW) Forward Plan (HW)	Empire Theatre Annual Report (VM) Maudlin St (AC) Low Carbon Social Housing Pilot (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Annual Heritage Report (VM) Built Heritage (ML) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Cultural Strategy (CDA) Community Development Service and VCS Annual Report (JDG) Enabling Independence Strategy Update (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Localism Act: Housing (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	
CCFA/ Members items/Petitions								

REASON FOR INCLUSION	JUNE 16.6.11	JULY 14.7.11	SEPTEMBER 15.9.11	OCTOBER 13.10.11	NOVEMBER 10.11.11	DECEMBER 15.12.11	JANUARY 19.1.12	FEBRUARY 16.2.12	MARCH 15.3.12	APRIL 19.4.12
Cabinet Referrals and Responses		Revenue & Capital Budget Variations 1 st Q – 2011/12 (ST)	Response to the 10/11 Policy Review – Smarter Working (NC)	Proposal for Budget Consultation 2012/13 (ST) Budget Planning Framework 2012/13 (ST) Revenue & Capital Budget Variations 2 nd Q (ST)			Council Tax Base 2012/13 (ST) Revenue & Capital Budget Variations 3 rd Q (ST) Provisional Budget Proposals 2012/13 (ST)	Budget & Service Reports - Collection Fund 11/12 - Revenue Budget & Proposed Council Tax 11/12 - Capital Programme 12/13		
Policy Review	Proposals for Policy Review (NC)	Self Regulation & Illegal Money Lending Scoping Paper for Policy Review (NC)	Approach & Setting the Scene Policy Reviews (NC)	Self Regulation & Illegal Money Lending Policy Review Progress Report (NC)	Presentation by the ILM Team (NC)	Self Regulation & Illegal Money Lending – Policy Review Update (NC)	Self Regulation & Illegal Money Lending – Policy Review Update (NC)	Self Regulation & Illegal Money Lending – Policy Review Update (NC)	Self Regulation & Illegal Money Lending – Policy Review Update (NC)	Policy Review Draft Reports (NC)
Performance	Service Planning Arrangements for 2012/13 (JB)		Performance & VfM Assessment (SR)			Performance Management Q2 (SR) Annual Audit Letter (GB)				Performance Management (Q3) (SR)
Scrutiny	Forward Plan (NC) Work Programme (NC)	Forward Plan (NC) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (NC) CfPS Conference Feedback (HL) Annual Scrutiny Conference Feedback (SA)	Forward Plan (NC) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (NC) Request to attend Conference (NC)	Forward Plan (NC) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (NC) H&S Report: Changing the Safety Culture in StreetScene (SS)	Forward Plan (NC) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (NC) LSP Annual Review (JM)	Forward Plan (NC) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (NC) LGC Conference Feedback (CB)	Forward Plan (NC) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (NC) Request to attend seminar (NC) CfPS Annual Conference attend (NC)	Forward Plan (NC) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (NC)	Forward Plan (NC) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (NC)	Draft Annual Report (NC) Forward Plan (NC) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (NC)
CCFA/Members items/Petitions										

MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2012 – 30 APRIL 2012

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

19 JANUARY 2012

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 January 2012 – 30 April 2012 which relate to the Management Scrutiny Committee.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Forward Plan) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, it has been agreed that the most recent version of the Executive's Forward Plan should be included on the agenda of this Committee. The Forward Plan for the period 1 January 2012 – 30 April 2012 is attached marked **Appendix 1**.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 In considering the Forward Plan, Members are asked to consider only those issues which are under the remit of the Management Scrutiny Committee. These are as follows:-

Corporate Improvement Plan; Sunderland Strategy; Partnerships (including relations with external bodies); enhancing the role and reputation of Sunderland regionally, nationally and internationally; co-ordination and development of the Scrutiny Function; Asset Management, Property Services and Building Maintenance; Area Frameworks; Corporate Communications; External Assessments; Public Protection and Trading Standards; Governance; Emergency Planning (to refer to appropriate Scrutiny Committee); Budget, financial resources and value for money; and to review any matter not falling within the remit of the other Scrutiny Committees.

- 3.3 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 January 2012 – 30 April 2012.

5. Background Papers

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

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**Forward Plan -
Key Decisions
for the period
01/Jan/2012 to
30/Apr/2012**



**E Waugh,
Head of Law and Governance,
Commercial and Corporate Services,
Sunderland City Council.**

14 November 2011

Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Jan/2012 to 30/Apr/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01438	To agree the Social Care Contributions Policy for Personalisation	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Cabinet, Service Users and Ward Members, Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	via the Contact Officer by 19 September - Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Report	Neil Revely	5661880
01524	To consider any key decisions arising from the Revenue Budget Third Quarterly Review	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors and third parties affected by the virement proposals	Report will be made available on the Intranet and e-mailed to Directors	Via the Contact Officer by 18 November 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	None	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01525	To consider any key decisions arising from the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Third Quarterly Review	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors and third parties affected by the virement proposals	Report will be made available on the Intranet and e-mailed to Directors	Via the Contact Officer by 16 December 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	None	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Jan/2012 to 30/Apr/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01527	To recommend to Council the level of Council Tax Base to be included in the 2012/2013 Budget	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	None	N/A	Via the Contact Officer by 18 November 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Fiona Brown	5611811
01526	To consider budget proposals for the 2012/2013 Revenue Budget for the Council	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors, Relevant Portfolio Holders, EMT, Chamber of Commerce, Trade Unions, Citizens Panel and Education Stakeholders	Briefings, Meetings, Presentations	To Contact Officer by 19 December 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Report and Supporting Papers	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01554	To agree the procurement of Healthwatch.	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Cabinet, Service Users, Ward Members and Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via the Contact Officer by 21 December 2011 - Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Full Report	Jean Carter	5662690

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Jan/2012 to 30/Apr/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01536	To recommend to Council the level of Council Tax Base to be included in the 2012/2013 Budget	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	None	N/A	Via the Contact Officer by 18 November 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Fiona Brown	5611811
01534	To consider any key decisions arising from the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Third Quarterly Review	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors and third parties affected by the virement proposals	Report will be made available on the Intranet and emailed to Directors	Via the Contact Officer by 16 December 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	None	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01539	To recommend the level of Council Tax to Council	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	Representatives of Business Ratepayers and Unions	At Special Meeting in February	At Special Meeting and otherwise in writing to the Contact Officer by the end of January 2012 Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611811

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Jan/2012 to 30/Apr/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01555	To agree the procurement by tender of three replacement operational vehicles for Streetscene to the value of £350K	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	Executive Director of Commercial Corporate Services, Head of Audit, Risk and Procurement	Officer report to relevant officers	Via the Contact Officer by 20 January 2012 - Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	Full Report	Colin Curtis	5614525
01538	To recommend the level of Council Tax Collection Fund 2012/2013	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	None	N/A	In writing to the Contact Officer by the end of January 2012 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01540	To recommend the Capital Programme, Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2012/2013 to the Council	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	Representatives of Business Ratepayers and Unions	At Special Meeting in February	At Special Meeting and otherwise in writing to the Contact Officer by end of January 2012 Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Jan/2012 to 30/Apr/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01537	To recommend the Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax 2012/2013 to Council	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	Reps. of Business Ratepayers, Unions, Headteachers, Governors, Youth Parliament, Citizens Panel	Presentations, Meetings, Surveys	At meetings arranged and otherwise in writing to the Contact Officer by the end of January 2012 Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01547	To agree the Strategy for Telecare.	Cabinet	14/Mar/2012	Cabinet, Service Users and Ward Members, Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via the Contact Officer by 21 February 2012 - Health and Scrutiny Committee	Full Report	Philip Foster	5662042
01556	To agree the new Equality Scheme for the Council and respond to the Equality Act 2010.	Cabinet	14/Mar/2012	Citizen Panel, Equality Forums, Voluntary Community Sector Forum, Employees	Briefing and attendance at group sessions.	Via Contact Officer by 20 February 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet report and Equality Scheme	Jane Hibberd	5614587