

Budget Planning Committee Annual Report

2013 – 2014

The Budget Planning Committee has been established to:

- Provide strategic overview of all matters that could significantly impact upon the finances of the authority
- Oversee the implementation of the forthcoming and ongoing financial reform that will significantly affect the Council
- Provide advice on the impact of business and housing growth in the district and estimate the financial impact of such growth
- Be responsible for supporting the budget setting strategy and process for:
 - o the general fund
 - o capital programme
 - o assets
 - o treasury management
 - o reserves
 - o investments
 - o recommending the Committee's preferred option, for formal consideration by Executive, in light of the Council's stated priorities.
- Have a planning horizon which will be medium term (five years) including the medium term financial strategy
- Will also focus on major projects facing the Council that will have a significant impact on the resources of the Council as well as the budget setting round for the forthcoming financial year.
- Be responsible for considering how the council responds to: changes in the way the council is funded, value for money and other legislative initiatives and reforms.
- Innovate and challenge the way the Council manages its budget and financial affairs.

Membership of the Committee for the year 2013/14 and attendance was:

Councillor Nicholas Mawer (Chairman) – 7/7

Councillor Douglas Webb (Vice-Chairman) – 6/7

Councillor Ken Atack – 5/7

Councillor Andrew Beere – 6/7

Councillor Maurice Billingham – 3/7

Councillor Margaret Cullip – 4/7

Councillor Tim Emptage – 7/7

Councillor Russell Hurle – 5/7

Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes – 0/2

Councillor Neil Prestidge – 3/7

Councillor Nigel Randall – 5/5

Councillor Laurie Stratford – 6/7

Councillor Barry Wood – 5/7

Substitutes attending during the year – Councillor John Donaldson (1); Councillor Rose Stratford (2); Councillor Sean Woodcock (1)

During the year the following officers attended meetings of the Committee: Martin Henry – Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer; Karen Curtin – Head of Finance and Procurement (until July 2013); Tim Madden – Interim Head of Finance and Procurement (from September 2013); Jo Pitman – Head of Transformation; Nicola Jackson – Corporate Finance Manager; Rakesh Kumar – GIS Manager; Beth Baines – Strategic Finance Accountant; Joanne Kaye - Interim Strategic Finance Accountant; Dave Parry - Democratic and Elections Officer.

Over the past year the Committee has considered 22 written reports and received several verbal updates. In addition, the Committee held a number of informal meetings during the autumn to scrutinise budget bids. The matters considered at each of the formal meetings have been as follows:

6 May 2013

- Terms of Reference and Draft Work Programme.
- 2012/13 outturn and Key Messages for Explanatory Forward.
- Financial Context – MTFs Latest Position, Capital Resources.
- Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Yr. 2).

9 July 2013

- Implications of Comprehensive Spending Review on MTFs Latest Position (including New Homes Bonus Funding).
- Business Rate Growth Monitoring
- Impact of Welfare Reform on Funding.
- Budget Monitoring Position: May 2013 Revenue & Capital 2013/14.
- Work Programme 2013/14.

8 October 2013

- Medium Term Financial Strategy Update and Latest Position.
- Budget Strategy 2014 to 2015 and Beyond.
- 2013/14 Capital Programme Review and 2014/15 Capital Strategy.
- Investment Opportunities
- Update on Business Rates Incentives
- Welfare Reform Update.
- Work Programme 2013/14.
- Budget Building Blocks (Exempt).

26 November 2013

- Capital Programme: Capital Bids 2014-15 (Exempt).
- Medium Term Financial Strategy Update and Latest Position.

3 December 2013

- Budget Update 2014-15.

21 January 2014

- Review of IT Capital Bids.
- 2014/15 Base Budget, including Capital Bids.
- Review of Capital Process (Urgent Business).

11 March 2014

- Capital Programme 2013-14.
- Quarter 3 Financial Performance.
- Review of Reserves.
- Fees and Charges Review 2014-15.
- Work Programme.

As this list of reports shows, the Committee has considered a wide range of subjects where it has been able to look in detail at many of the important financial issues that face the Council. This has enabled members to both get a better understanding of the issues involved and feed back to officers thoughts and opinions on draft policies being developed for the Executive and Council.

Councillor Nicholas Mawer - Chairman

With support from Martin Henry – Lead Officer

24 June, 2014.