

BUDGET WORKING PARTY

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 23 AUGUST 2006

Present: Councillors Miss E Woodburn (Chairman); Mrs J K Johnston; AWM Norwood; J G Sunderland; P Watson

Apologies for absence was received from Councillors M J Ashbrook; Anne Bradshaw;

Officers: T J Chilcott, Corporate Director (Quality of Life); C Nicholson, Accountancy Services Manager; J Salt, Head of Customer Services; T Capper; Democratic Services Manager; H Kozich, Performance Improvement Manager

Cash Collection Review

The Working Party considered a report setting out options for the future of cash collection following the end of the SLA with Copeland Homes in March 2007 whereby rent is collected from the four offices on behalf of Copeland Homes.

Members considered three options: to continue collecting cash with reduced manning levels; to stop collecting cash but still provide other front office payment facilities; or to close the front office facility. The report detailed the implications of each option in customer service, costs, staffing, achievement of Gershon savings and the e-government agenda in promoting use of electronic transactions.

Noted that the timescale required a decision by Executive in October/November on the preferred option for implementation from March 2007.

Agreed that whichever option is eventually chosen, further work will be required on a number of issues as outlined on page 1 of the review report.

AGREED that option 3 is the preferred option and that further reports are prepared for BWP on the outstanding issues in relation to option 3.

The meeting closed at 4.25pm

Chairman