

RESOURCE PLANNING WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2008

Present: Councillors A Holliday (Deputy Leader in the Chair); J W Bowman; P C Connolly; A Norwood; J G Sunderland.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Woodburn and P Watson.

Officers: G Ayling, Interim Head of Finance and Business Development; P Robson, Interim Deputy S 151 Officer; T Capper, Democratic Services Manager; H Mitchell, Head of Policy and Performance, M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

RP 37 Minutes

Minutes of meeting held on 6 February agreed subject to amendment of date.

RP 38 Evaluation of Budget Process

Members considered and evaluated the process which hasd been followed for preparation of the budget for 2008/2009. Members welcomed the additional involvement of service heads and team managers in preparation of the budget for the first time, as this would aid ownership of budget heads for monitoring purposes throughout the year.

Members noted that there was a requirement in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules in the Constitution for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be consulted on the outline budget proposals and that this had not been strictly adhered to in this year's process.

Members expressed the view that consideration of the Budget at full Council should be either at a special meeting or early in the agenda at an ordinary meeting.

The Group then considered the Budget consultation process and how this could be improved. It was agreed that consultation need not be specifically tied to budget proposals and could be combined with consultations on other matters.

It was agreed

- Budget to be early in agenda of Council meeting in future
- Special meeting of all OSC's (all Members invited) to be held in Aug/Sept to consider budget proposals

- Consultation required on budget but not necessarily tied to budget.
- Resources for budget consultation need to be considered
- Minutes of this working group to go to executive and OSC Management Committee for information
- Regular meetings of this Group required for budget monitoring purposes.

RP 39 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 13 March 9.30 am to consider detailed budget allocations

The meeting closed at 10.20 am

Chairman

