

## **CONSULTATION ON THE BUDGET PROCESS**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Cllr A Holliday  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Liam Murphy, Chief Executive  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Marilyn Robinson, Acting Head of Finance and Management Information Systems

### **Summary:**

This report proposes that Members consider the budget consultation process.

### **Recommendation:**

That Members confirm the consultation strategy for the 2009/10 budget.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the budget consultation process. The Resource Planning Working Group (RPWG), at its meeting on 27 February 2008, evaluated the budget consultation process carried out in 2007/08 and agreed that consultation need not be specifically tied to budget proposals and could be combined with consultation on other matters. It was also concluded that resources for budget consultation need to be considered.

## **2 OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSULTATION ALREADY IDENTIFIED**

- 2.1 The Communications Team has already identified a number of opportunities arising for consultation with the community. These are detailed at Appendix A.
- 2.2 The current budget process allows for formal consultation with Overview and Scrutiny and with the Executive, before the budget is recommended for approval by Full Council.

### **3 OPTIONS**

- 3.1 The RWPG consider if any of the events identified at Appendix A could be appropriately used for budget consultation purposes.
- 3.2 In addition to consultation with the community, the RPWG may wish to consider opportunities for consulting with all Members of the Council – over above Overview & Scrutiny and the Executive.

### **4 FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)**

- 4.1 Resources will be allocated in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy and take into account the priorities established.

### **5 PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 The budget process will be timetabled and risks identified.

### **6 IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN**

- 6.1 The budget and monitoring process is fully integrated into the planning process of the Council embracing all the corporate objectives.

**List of Appendices:** Appendix A Consultation Events

**List of Background Documents:** None

**Consultees:** Corporate Team