

Background:

Members will recall that a review of the budget criteria is a work plan item for OSC PR. Members of the Budget Working Party have reservations about the current criteria, which they have not found to be universally efficient and Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Environmental Well-being in particular have strong reservations about the narrow definition of 'regeneration', feeling quite strongly that the quality of the environment is a key factor in successful regeneration.

Attached are the current criteria used. The Head of Finance and Business Development will provide examples of occasions when the current criteria have worked and when they haven't.

It is suggested that once Members have had the opportunity to comment, that two Members of the Committee (who must not also be Members of the Budget Working Party) are appointed to work in more detail on a revision of the criteria to bring back to the Committee at their September meeting. The revision will also need to take account of the new Corporate Plan 2007-2012 which is currently under development.