

ITEM 5 BUDGET WORKING PARTY

BUDGET PROCESS 2007/08 – SAVINGS Discussion paper.

Lead Officers: Sue Borwick & Catherine Nicholson

Report Author: Sue Borwick

1 Background:

- 1.1 The 2006/07 budget was approved by Council in March 2006. As part of the approval a three year plan was included which identified that based on current expectations, prior to further calls on resources, the Council would need to find @£60k to meet the current strategy.
- 1.2 Since approval further issues have arisen such as potential changes to Building Control, web master post etc which already mean savings will be required in excess of this figure.
- 1.3 In order to ensure that all calls on resources are known at an early stage, all requests for growth bids are returned to finance by 28th July. The bids will have been discussed and supported by both the portfolio holder and Head of service.

2 Process to identify savings:

- 2.1 The intention for this budget round was to undertake fundamental service reviews for all services to ensure full information and choices were known in order to make savings required in the most appropriate areas.
- 2.2 It is still the intention to implement this process but as we do not yet have an agreed Corporate plan or robust performance data, this will not be in place for the start of the process this year.
- 2.3 Although we have requested departments submit areas where savings are required, we expect that this will not generate sufficient to cover increased requirements.
- 2.3 Initial work has already been undertaken, detailing the activities carried out in the departments which shows the costs and nature of the service identifying those which are discretionary and those being statutory. This information has been circulated to members previously.

- 2.4 As an interim , for this year, it is proposed that 2 extra columns are added to show:
- Implications of ceasing / reducing level of services
 - Comments from Corporate Team – identifying strong, likely or weak support
- 2.5 From this information members will be able to make informed recommendations of savings that could be made to ensure we allocate resources available that meet our statutory responsibilities and current key objectives of the Council.