

Report To: Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 21st May 2014

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill /Paul McGrady

Report Author: Richard Weigh, Chief Accountant

Title: Budget Process 2015/16

1. What is the report about?

The report gives an update on the process to deliver the revenue budget for 2015/16.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The Corporate Governance Committee has an oversight role of the budget process.

3. What are the Recommendations?

To consider the latest update and comment as appropriate.

4. Report details

Since the last Corporate Governance Committee meeting, the main activity has been to take a paper on the budget process to Council Briefing (28th April) and to confirm the dates for the member budget workshops. Invites have now been sent to all elected members and the details of the July workshops are shown in the table below:

Table 1 – July Member Budget Workshops & Draft Agendas

Workshop 1 (9th July – all day)	Workshop 2 (14th July – all day)	Workshop 3 (30th July - afternoon)
Highways & Environment	Education & Schools	Adults & Business Services
Communication, Marketing & Leisure	Finance & Assets	Children & Family Services
Housing & Community Development	Business Improvement & Modernisation	Planning & Public Protection
	Strategic HR	
	Legal & Democratic Services	

Freedoms & Flexibilities budget meetings with services, service lead members and CET have all now been arranged and the schedule is as follows:

Table 2 – Schedule of Freedoms & Flexibilities Service Budget Meetings

Service	Date
Adults & Business Services	7 th May
Business Improvement & Modernisation	13 th May
Communication, Marketing & Leisure	22 nd May
Children & Family Services	29 th May
Legal & Democratic Services	30 th May
Housing & Community Development	5 th June
Schools, School Improvement, Customers & Education Support	17 th June
Strategic HR	25 th June
Planning & Public Protection	25 th June
Finance & Assets	26 th June
Highways & Environment	30 th June

A verbal update on the outcome of the first two meetings will be provided to the Corporate Governance Committee on 21st May and the papers and a note of the outcome of the meetings will be published on Modern.gov.

The table of key Events remains largely unchanged but an updated version is shown below:

Key Events	Dates	Status
Corporate Governance Committee	15 th April 2014	Completed
Council Briefing	28 th April	Completed
First Round of Budget Meetings with Services	7 th May – 30 th June	All meetings arranged
Update to Cabinet Briefing	12 th May	
CET Review of Process	19 th May	
Update to Corporate Governance Committee	21 st May	
Update to Cabinet Briefing	2 nd June	
Update to Corporate Governance Committee	2 nd July	
Update SLT	3 rd July	
Update to Cabinet Briefing	7 th July	
First Member Budget Workshop	9 th July	Invites Issued
Second Member Budget Workshop	14 th July	Invites Issued
Third Member Budget Workshop	30 th July	Invites Issued
Update to Corporate Governance Committee	3 rd September	
County Council	9 th September	
Second Round of Budget Meetings with Services	September/early October	
Update to Cabinet Briefing	22 nd September	
Update SLT	2nd October	
Update to Cabinet Briefing	6 th October	
Fourth Member Budget Workshop	13 th October	Invites Issued
Fifth Member Budget Workshop	20 th October	Invites Issued
Update to Cabinet Briefing	3 rd November	
Update to Corporate Governance Committee	5 th November	

Update to Cabinet Briefing	8 th December	
County Council	9 th December	
Sixth Member Budget Workshop	12 th December	Invites Issued
Update to Corporate Governance Committee	17 th December	
County Council	3 rd February 2015	

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Effective management of the council's budgets and delivery of the agreed budget strategy underpins activity in all areas, including corporate priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

The council needs to deliver savings of approximately £12m over the next two financial years.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision?

An EqIA will be completed for all relevant proposals as the process develops.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The process has been considered by CET, SLT, Cabinet Briefing, Council Briefing and the Corporate Governance Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

This will be an extremely challenging process with some tough decisions to make along the way. The engagement and support of elected members in the decision making and scrutiny of the process is crucial.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

This is the most challenging financial period the council has faced and failure to deliver an effective budget strategy will put further pressure on services in future financial years.

11. Power to make the Decision

Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.