

**Report To: Corporate Governance Committee**

**Date of Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014**

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

**Report Author: Richard Weigh, Chief Accountant**

**Title: Budget Process 2015/16**

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**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?**

To provide an update of the latest position.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

To consider the latest update and comment as appropriate.

**4. Report details**

Since the last meeting, a further update has been provided to Cabinet Briefing and at the time of writing the report, seven Freedoms & Flexibilities budget meetings have taken place. The schedule is shown below:

**Table 2 – Schedule of Freedoms & Flexibilities Service Budget Meetings**

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

At each meeting, a detailed analysis of the service budget was considered and a set of outcomes agreed. An example of the service analysis and outcomes (relating to Adults & Business Services) is enclosed as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. From the outcomes, a series of detailed information sheets are being produced to highlight the range and timing of potential savings, the impact, risks and suggested consultation requirements. An example is shown

as Appendix 3. The information to be presented to the budget workshops in July will be based on the appendices enclosed. However, the view of the Corporate Governance Committee in respect of the format and detail of the information contained in the appendices is key as it will help inform the process as it continues to develop.

Key Events	Dates	Status
Corporate Governance Committee	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2014	Completed
Council Briefing	28 <sup>th</sup> April	Completed
First Round of Budget Meetings with Services	7 <sup>th</sup> May – 30 <sup>th</sup> June	All meetings arranged – 7 completed
Update to Cabinet Briefing	12 <sup>th</sup> May	Completed
CET Review of Process	19 <sup>th</sup> May	Completed
Update to Corporate Governance Committee	21 <sup>st</sup> May	Completed
Update to Cabinet Briefing	2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Completed
Update to Corporate Governance Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> July	
Update SLT	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	
Update to Cabinet Briefing	7 <sup>th</sup> July	
First Member Budget Workshop	9 <sup>th</sup> July	Invites Issued
Second Member Budget Workshop	14 <sup>th</sup> July	Invites Issued
Third Member Budget Workshop	30 <sup>th</sup> July	Invites Issued
Update to Corporate Governance Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> September	
County Council	9 <sup>th</sup> September	
Second Round of Budget Meetings with Services	September/early October	
Update to Cabinet Briefing	22 <sup>nd</sup> September	
Update SLT	2 <sup>nd</sup> October	
Update to Cabinet Briefing	6 <sup>th</sup> October	
Fourth Member Budget Workshop	13 <sup>th</sup> October	Invites Issued
Fifth Member Budget Workshop	20 <sup>th</sup> October	Invites Issued
Update to Cabinet Briefing	3 <sup>rd</sup> November	
Update to Corporate Governance Committee	5 <sup>th</sup> November	
Update to Cabinet Briefing	8 <sup>th</sup> December	
County Council	9 <sup>th</sup> December	
Sixth Member Budget Workshop	12 <sup>th</sup> December	Invites Issued
Update to Corporate Governance Committee	17 <sup>th</sup> December	
County Council	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 £12-£14m 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.