

**Report To: Corporate Governance Committee**

**Date of Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 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 update, all of the Freedoms & Flexibilities budget meetings have taken place with services. The schedule is shown below:

***Table 1 – Schedule of Freedoms & Flexibilities Service Budget Meetings***

<b>Service</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adults & Business Services	7 <sup>th</sup> May
Business Improvement & Modernisation	13 <sup>th</sup> May
Communication, Marketing & Leisure	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 (Part 1)	30 <sup>th</sup> June
Communication, Marketing & Leisure (Youth Services)	21 <sup>st</sup> July
Highways & Environment (Part 2)	4 <sup>th</sup> August
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	4 <sup>th</sup> August

The outcomes from each meeting, along with a full analysis of the service budget, have been presented for consideration at the member budget

workshops. So far, two workshops have taken place and because of the level of discussion and debate, it became obvious quite quickly that more time would need to be allocated to allow members sufficient opportunity to discuss each service budget and service saving proposals. In response, additional member workshops have been arranged and these have been added to the table below. Those in red text are the additional dates. The workshop noted for 28<sup>th</sup> August will only take place if the preceding workshop overruns.

**Table 2 Key Events**

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 – 4 <sup>th</sup> Aug	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	Completed
Update SLT	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Completed
Update to Cabinet Briefing	7 <sup>th</sup> July	Completed
First Member Budget Workshop	9 <sup>th</sup> July	Invites Issued
Second Member Budget Workshop	14 <sup>th</sup> July	Invites Issued
<b>Third Member Budget Workshop</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Invites Issued</b>
<b>Extra Workshop If Needed</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Invites Issued</b>
Fourth Member Budget Workshop	2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Invites Issued
Update to Corporate Governance Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> September	
County Council	9 <sup>th</sup> September	
<b>Fifth Member Budget Workshop</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	<b>Replaces Council Briefing</b>
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	
<b>Sixth Member Budget Workshop</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Invites Issued</b>
Seventh Member Budget Workshop	13 <sup>th</sup> October	Invites Issued
Eighth Member Budget Workshop	20 <sup>th</sup> October	Invites Issued
Ninth Member Budget Workshop	27 <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	

<b>Tenth Member Budget Workshop</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Invites Issued</b>
<b>Update to Corporate Governance Committee</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
<b>County Council</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015</b>	

The papers for all workshops have been issued in advance electronically and in hard copy. The workshops held so far have been well attended with wide ranging debate taking place and numerous questions being asked. Members have been asked to express views as to whether saving proposals should be 'adopted', developed', or 'deferred'. A number of proposals that members indicated they would be content to adopt will be taken to County Council for approval on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

A verbal update will be presented to the Committee incorporating any points emerging from the latest budget workshops and any other relevant issues.

**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 may need to deliver savings of up to £18m 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.