

**Performance Scrutiny Committee
16 December 2013**

Annex 5 – Addenda

**Summary of councillors' comments from the briefings on the
budget proposals**

Performance Scrutiny is keen to ensure that all elected members have the opportunity to be involved in the Service and Resource Planning Process. It arranged for all directorates to hold briefing sessions for councillors between 25 November and 3 December.

The sessions, chaired by the Chairman of the Performance Scrutiny Committee gave members the opportunity to understand the proposed savings that are now presented to Performance Scrutiny Committee.

The sessions enabled councillors to understand the scale of the financial challenge faced by the council, and provided an opportunity to explore the broader context around the proposals as well as questioning Directors about the impact on the public and delivery issues. This approach was welcomed by councillors. Performance Scrutiny will take these discussions and issues into account in its consideration of the budget proposals, and in its feedback to Cabinet.

The areas of interest that were raised by councillors in the sessions are set out by service area below;

Children, Education & Families

- Staff redundancies
- Integration of early intervention and children's services and member involvement
- Early Intervention Service
- Children's centres
- Music service
- Attendance service
- Out of county placements for young people with Special Education Needs or Disabilities
- Balance between targeted and universal services
- Engagement of service users in contract
- Special Educational Needs Support Services
- Transitions – from Children's to Adults services
- Income raising opportunities and charging for services

Adult Social Care

- Links between health and adult social care funding
- Hourly rates of the cost of care, and the cost of care more generally

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- The quality of care that providers deliver and the efficiency of providers
- Learning disabilities
- Brokerage services
- Information and Advice
- Timings of the proposed budget changes
- Means-testing of service charges
- Efficiency of council services
- Oxfordshire Support Fund
- The statutory duties of the county council
- Housing related support
- The role of councillors and joint boards with health and district councils
- Reducing demand on services
- Risks to the council

Environment and Economy

- Supported Transport review
- Food waste recycling
- Income from 'energy from waste'
- Property disposals and property maintenance
- Customer Services
- Street Lighting
- Developer funding
- 'Signs and Lines' budget
- Neighbourhood planning
- Travel Planning
- Road condition and defect Repairs
- Apprenticeships
- Parking Income
- Staff numbers

Chief Executives Office

- Withdrawal of grants to voluntary sector

Fire & Rescue

- Night time cover
- Animal welfare (trading standards)

Public Health

- Ring fenced grant