

Performance Scrutiny Committee

18 December 2014

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 an all-directorate briefing session for councillors between on 10th December.

The session, 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.

General

- Reduced funding from central government and long term impact on the ability for local authorities to provide services

Children, Education & Families

- Future shape of our Children, Education and Family services
- Balance between the provision of universal and targeted services
- Balance between preventative and responsive services
- Impact of growth on the proposals that are being made

Social and Community Services

- Concerns around the level of unidentified savings
- Impact of the uncertainty around the Better Care Fund arrangements slowing the ability to deliver savings
- How changes implemented as part of the Big Plan will deliver savings
- Impact of growth and demographic pressures on the demand for learning disability services
- Issue of care workers being paid the living wage and the impact on achieving savings

Environment and Economy

- Impact of growth and demographic change on the demand for supported transport services, particularly home to school transport
- Area Steward service
- Sufficiency of proposals around parking charges
- Bus subsidies and dial-a-ride
- Use of developer funding to support wider impact of growth on demand for services
- Community Action Group and TOE2 funding arrangements
- Agile working and opportunities to sell or lease property

Fire & Rescue and Community Safety

- Ensuring continuing provision of domestic abuse services
- Impact of growth on service provision