

Councillor Mitchell's response to this Committee's budgetary advice

Advice	Councillor Mitchell's response
This Committee:	
<p>a) wishes to express its concern regarding the capability of the Council's ICT facilities to support the transformation of Adult Social Care, with particular regard to the roll out of Self Directed Support;</p>	<p>In the light of the serious overspend in ICT, the Cabinet shares concerns about capability and capacity. We have requested the Audit Committee to review and report on the overspending that has arisen. The Deputy Leader will be keeping a very firm eye on the ability of ICT to support a number of programmes of which Adult Social Care Transformation is one.</p>
<p>b) wishes the Directorate to continue its close liaison with NHS Oxfordshire (formerly Oxfordshire PCT), with particular attention to the grave financial situation facing NHS Oxfordshire which will have ramifications for Adult Social Care given the amount of services that are delivered in partnership;</p>	<p>I am pleased to report continuing good working relationships with the NHS. Senior level staff changes in NHS Oxfordshire and the John Radcliffe Hospital Trust are now largely in place and regular meetings continue between the NHS and County Council.</p>
<p>c) notes the importance of community development initiatives which aim to increase social capital, wellbeing and independence thus aiming to reduce demand for residential care and acute services; and that while there are already some good examples of this, there is still more to be done, including work to ensure that there is a cohesive system of integrated local community services in place;</p>	<p>I note this view. I am keen to see work on strengthening community self-reliance and have asked the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee to pick up on this role. Our <i>Closer to Communities</i> strategy, based on 14 localities, should help in this area as well. The Cabinet is conscious of the level of national debt and the inevitability of spending cuts over the medium term. We are therefore cautious about committing more funding here unless they help to prevent the need for more expensive services.</p>
<p>d) notes that the Adult Social Care budget for 2010/11 is balanced, while noting the two risks to the service identified by the Director, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. the major overspend on the older person's pooled budget (which the Directorate plans to reduce); and II. the financial implications for 	<p>The Cabinet accepts the Director's risk analysis.</p> <p>I am pleased to note the NHS has contributed substantially to their share of the pooled budget overspend. We understand pressure will continue in the future and will be keeping a close eye on balancing the pooled budget. Careful financial management has reduced the overspending on the</p>

local authorities of the potential introduction of free personal domiciliary care for people with the highest levels of need, as outlined by government sources.

County Council's share of the pool to a level which will be manageable in 2010/11.

I welcome the Lords' amendments and am delighted the government has conceded deferment of this most important reform. The Cabinet is supportive of the principle of free Adult Social Care but remains deeply concerned that Gordon Brown's scheme would place all of the financial risk on local government based on deeply flawed estimates of the likely total cost