

MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKING GROUP HELD 27 JANUARY 2010

Present: Cllrs: Ranson, Sherras, Knox, T Hill, Thompson, Rogerson, Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Director of Community Services, Director of Development, Financial Services Manager

1 Apologies

1.1 Cllr Hirst

2 Minutes of previous meeting held on 13 January 2010

2.1 Cllr Ranson enquired about the arrangements that were being made for the meeting with business rate payers. The DOR had spoken to Craig Matthews, the council's regeneration officer in order to engage with more members of the business community.

3 Latest Position Revenue Budget 2010/11

3.1 The DOR took members through the budget requirement and the savings that had already been identified. A large proportion of this related to in year restructurings that had already taken place.

3.2 The DOR then took members through a further list of savings that had been identified at a special meeting of CMT on 25 January 2010 and highlighted a third list of savings which members may wish to consider if they felt that further savings still were required.

3.3 Cllr Ranson made reference to public conveniences and whether there should be some form of public consultation in future years about their ongoing operation by this council.

3.4 A discussion took place on the operation of CCTV and Cllr Thompson suggested that the police should be invited to a future meeting of Community Services Committee.

3.5 The suggestion of increasing summons costs was debated but it was felt that there should be more comparison of the charges operated at other neighbouring councils and the structure of their charges if this path was to be taken.

3.6 The allocation of overheads was raised by Cllr Ranson, who felt that they were too high. Cllr Ranson said that it was a balance between reducing our overheads or increasing our workload.

4 Update on Draft Five Year Capital Programme 2010/15

4.1 The DOR took members through the latest position for the proposed five year capital programme 2010/15. A number of schemes had need to be excluded due to the affordability of the programme

4.2 Cllr Ranson questioned what alternatives were open to the council if it could not borrow or buy new equipment to carry out services.

- 4.3 Discussions took place on borrowing to support the capital programme. The DOR referred members to the implications of borrowing on the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and its ultimate impact on the council tax and highlighted that it should only be used for assets with a particularly long life, such as land.

5 Any Other Business

- 5.1 There were no additional items raised

6 Date and Time of Next Meeting

- 6.1 It was agreed that the proposed next meeting for 3 February 2010 would not be required. The DOR would arrange for regular meetings of the Budget Working Group to take place and monthly meetings would be arranged in the near future for the 2010/11 financial year.