

By: Paul Wickenden – Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Scrutiny Board – 15 July 2010

Subject: Feedback from Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees (POSC's) on arrangements to contribute to the development of the budget.

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Summary: This report sets the outcomes to date of the consideration by the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees of the request to formulate their arrangements to contribute to the development of the Budget.

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## **Introduction**

1 (1). At the meeting of the Scrutiny Board on 22 April 2010 Members discussed how the POSC's could build on the way that they had been involved in the budget process in previous years so that they could have a constructive input into the development of next years budget.

(2). The Scrutiny Board agreed that at the June/July meeting of the POSC's, as part of their financial outturn reports, all POSC's would be asked to formulate their arrangements for contributing to the development of the budget so that they were able to have an input at an earlier stage than previous years.

(3). To support Members in this work, Mr Wood (Head of Financial Management ) has arranged two training sessions for Member to focus on advising and supporting them in their role of considering the revenue budget options for the next Medium Term Plan. The first of these sessions was held on 21 May 2010 and attended by 10 Members. The second of these sessions is due to be held on the afternoon of the Scrutiny Board meeting (15 July 2010).

## **Establishment of POSC Informal Member Groups (IMG's) to consider the Budget and Medium Term Plan**

2 (1) Set out below are the outcomes to date from the consideration by each POSC of their arrangements for contributing to the budget process:-

### *Adult Social Services POSC – 25 June 2010*

(2) It was agreed that an IMG would be established which would meet on a regular basis in order to get a fuller understanding of the implications of potential budget reductions and to report back to the full POSC.

### *CFE Joint POSCs*

(3) Although the CFE POSC with responsibility for Budgetary issues is the Resources and Infrastructure POSC, it was recognised last year that all three POSC's have a contribution to make to the development of the Budget.

(4) The agreement of the three CFE POSC chairmen has been obtained to having an IMG consisting of 6 Members (2 from each of the POSC's including the Liberal Democrat Spokesman) to contribute to the development of the budget for CFE which will report back to the Resources and Infrastructure POSC.

*Corporate POSC – 1 July 2010*

(5) This POSC agreed to establish an IMG to contribute to the development of the budget which would have its first meeting in September (date to be agreed).

*Environment Highways and Waste POSC - 29 July 2010*

(6) As this POSC is not due to meet until 29 July 2010 at the agenda meeting it was agreed to establish an IMG for this POSC.

*Regeneration and Economic Development POSC - 8 July 2010*

*Communities POSC – 9 July 2010*

(7) These POSC's have been asked to formulate their arrangements for contributing to the development of the budget. As they will not meet until the papers for the Scrutiny Board have been despatched, the outcome of their consideration of this matter will be reported on 15 July 2010.

**Officers Attendance at IMG's**

3. The Board is requested to confirm that they would expect the relevant Heads of Finance to attend the IMG meetings along with any other Directorate Managers at the POSC's request.

**Recommendations**

4. The Scrutiny Board are asked to note the progress make any comments on the operation of these IMG's.

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Background Information: *none*