

NOTES of a meeting of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee's Informal Member Group on Budgetary Issues held on Friday, 2 February 2007

PRESENT: Mr D Smyth (Chairman) and Mr C J Capon.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr N J D Chard, Cabinet Member for Finance, Dr M R Eddy.

OFFICERS: Ms L McMullan, Director of Finance; Mrs C Head, Chief Accountant; Mr R Fitzgerald, Performance Monitoring Officer; John Wale, Assistant to the Chief Executive; and Mr S C Ballard, Head of Democratic Services

1. Notes of Previous Meeting

(Item 1)

Noted.

2. Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Exception Report

(Item 2 – Report to Cabinet)

(1) Mr Chard gave a brief summary of the current position.

(2) In answer to concerns expressed by Mr Smyth and Dr Eddy about the future of the Archaeological Research Centre project, Mr Chard and Ms McMullan explained that the intention now was to prepare a business case for the project so that external funding could be sought. Ms McMullan offered to provide a detailed note on this. **(Action: LM/CH)**

3. National 2005/06 BVPI Comparisons

(Item 3)

(1) Mr Fitzgerald gave a brief introduction. He explained that, for those BVPIs that were comparable with previous years, KCC's performance had been good overall. The new PIs showed a need for improvement, but latest figures indicated that they would improve overall for 2007/08.

(2) Mr Fitzgerald added that the present BVPI system would end in March 2008, when a new basket of 200 PIs (yet to be specified) would be introduced.

(3) Members' questions covered the following issues:-

Environment and Regeneration (page 5)

(4) In answer to questions from Dr Eddy and Mr Smyth, Mr Fitzgerald accepted that the results had worsened for 2005/06 but pointed out that road casualties had reduced in 2006/07 and thus would improve the relevant PIs. In addition, the opening of the Allington waste to energy plant would improve the results of the PIs for waste.

Comprehensive Performance Assessment

(5) In answer to a question from Mr Smyth, Mr Fitzgerald said that he thought that the latest results would put KCC in a good position for CPA next year. However, for CPA, the Audit Commission would be looking at a much wider range of indicators, some of which depended on the performance of KCC's partners as well as KCC itself.