

Budget and Transformation Panel

Minutes of Meeting No. 4 Friday 16th October 2009

Present:

Cllr T Hartley	Sinn Fein(Chair)
Cllr Convery	SDLP
Cllr Newton	DUP
Peter McNaney	Chief Executive
Gerry Millar	Director of Improvement
Jill Minne	Head of HR
Emer Husbands	Strategic Performance Manager
Jim Brooks	External Advisor

Apologies:

Cllr D Browne UUP
Cllr M Browne Sinn Fein
Ronan Cregan Improvement Manager

1. Introduction

The Chair invited Jim Brooks to speak to the paper which was circulated on the progress of the Mini Budget Review. This report incorporated all the items on the Agenda and the following issues were discussed.

2. Estimates 10/11

The initial departmental estimates had been submitted and while the Members felt the implication on the rate was too high they welcomed the fact that the process has started and they now had some time to review the figures along with departments and consider areas for further savings.

The Chief Executive assured members that a process to do this had been developed and would be the subject of a report to SP&R in November.

The group agreed that it was also important not just to consider the 10/11 rate but to also think about the rate for the following year which would also include a rise in the regional rate.

The Chief Executive highlighted the need to consider the capital budget and it was agreed that the Members needed to prioritise the Place Shaping agenda and at the same time receive information on how the capital programme affects the organisation's finances.

There was also agreement around the need to take into account the longer term revenue aspects of capital projects.

Decision

A report to be brought to SP&R detailing the process for identifying savings and agreeing the revenue and capital budget for 10/11.

Party Group Briefings to then be held to allow further debate and consideration of the organisations financial options for 10/11.

3. Review of the Centre

Jim Brooks outlined some of the key issues in the report which could potentially deliver savings and in particular updated the panel on the ongoing review of the Centre which had been identified as a key cost saving activity for the organisation.

The Head of HR discussed progress to date on some of the key parts of the review and in particular the VR process which was a first step in reducing the size of the Centre. She responded to a number of questions about the process and the Chief Executive reminded Members that the process had no implications for front line service delivery.

The Chief Executive said that in order to secure savings for the next financial year it was important to implement the recommendations of the review of the Centre quickly. He therefore asked that he would take a paper to SP&R in November to give him delegated authority to implement the first stages of the review in line with Council equality, legal and HR practice and with due scrutiny from Members.

Decision

It was agreed that the Chief Executive should take a report to SP&R on 6 November detailing proposals for the roll out of the review of the Centre as discussed at the meeting.

The Chair thanked Jim Brooks for his report and the members of the panel for a useful and productive meeting.

4. Date of Next Meeting - Change

Please note the date of the next meeting will now be held on Friday 13 November at 1.00pm in the Chief Executives office – this is a change from the date discussed at the meeting.