

Budget and Transformation Panel

Minutes of Meeting No. 8

Tuesday 9 February 2010

Present:

Cllr T Hartley	SF (Chair)
Cllr M Browne	SF
Cllr D Browne	UUP
Cllr P Convery	SDLP
Cllr M Jones	ALL
Cllr D Rodway	DUP
P McNaney	CX
J Thompson	Director of Finance and Resources
J Minne	Head of Human Resources
R Cregan	Improvement Manager

Apologies:

R Newton	DUP
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1. Update on VR Exercise

The Director of Finance and Resources informed Members that it was her intention to bring a report to the SP&R Committee on 19 February 2010 on the voluntary redundancy exercise. She explained that the structural reviews required to support the business case for each voluntary redundancy had been completed. It was confirmed that the target efficiency savings of £983,269 had been achieved and that the costs of the exercise would be within the £2.3m estimated costs.

The Director informed Members that the issue of supernumeraries had also been addressed.

Action Required:

Following discussion on a range of issues, Members agreed that it would be useful for party group briefings to be held on the VR exercise prior to the SP&R Committee meeting on 19 February 2010.

2. Rate setting process

All Members agreed that the rate setting process for 2010/11 was inclusive, timely and well informed. Members also agreed that this process needs to be built on for the rate setting in 2011/12.

Action:

It was agreed that the Director of Finance and Resources would bring back a route map on the planning process for the coming year. The process would start to further integrate the financial and business planning in the organisation and consider the issue of setting a target or indicative rate early in the planning cycle.

It was also agreed that representatives from Land and Property Services would be requested to attend the next Budget and Transformation Panel meeting so that Members could discuss their role in the overall rate setting process.

3. Efficiency Programme

The Director of Finance and Resources informed Members that all departments are currently putting together proposals for future efficiency savings. These proposals would be developed into an efficiency programme for the council which is integrated with the corporate plan and the medium term financial plan.

Action:

It was agreed that the Director of Finance and Resources would bring a further update on the efficiency programme to the next meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel and the SP&R Committee on 19 March 2010.

4. Capital Programme

The Improvement Manager informed Members that the council now needs to integrate the capital programme planning and prioritisation with the overall financial planning of the organisation. Officers would need to work closely with the Budget and Transformation Panel, party groups and the SP&R Committee to develop this process.

Action:

It was agreed that the Director of Property and Projects would in the first instance hold party briefings on the matter on his return to work.

4. Date of Next Meeting: 9 March 2010 at 12.00pm.