

Budget and Transformation Panel

Minutes of Meeting No. 10

Thursday 15 April 2010

Present:

Cllr T Hartley	SF (Chair)
Cllr P Convery	SDLP
Cllr M Jones	ALL
Cllr D Rodway	DUP
P McNaney	Chief Executive
J Thompson	Director of Finance and Resources
G Millar	Director of Property and Projects
R Cregan	Head of Finance and Performance

1. Review of Financial Reporting

The Director of Finance and Resources outlined the key issues concerning the further development of financial reporting to Members.

Action Required:

Members agreed that the Director should:

- (a) Provide an overview report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 23 April;
- (b) Work with Budget and Transformation Panel and Party Groups in May/June to resolve the key issues; and,
- (c) Recommendations for way ahead to be reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June 2010.

2. Briefing on Council Expenditure 2010/11

The Director of Finance and Resources reminded Members that they have already agreed that the council's efficiency programme should be based on the following high level strands:

- Assets and land
- Procurement
- Income generation
- ICT
- Service reviews
- Challenge to budgets

In relation to the efficiency programme she informed Members that there would be a need to concentrate resources on service areas which would have the greatest potential for delivering further efficiency savings.

The Director of Finance and Resources provided an overview of Council budgeted net expenditure by department and service.

Action:

The Budget and Transformation Panel to discuss areas for the efficiency programme at its meeting in May.

3. Corporate Plan Update

The Chief Executive informed Members that 2010/11 is the final year of the current corporate plan and therefore the last refresh that will take place before the creation of the new plan that will take the organisation forward from 2011. The strategic themes and objectives of the organisation, set by Members in 2008, have remained largely the same between 2009/10 and 2010/11; however the actions and performance measures aligned to the themes and objectives have been updated to ensure that they remain relevant and continue to be consistent with Members' priorities for the city.

Reports will be brought to the Panel and the SP&R Committee on the implementation of the plan on a regular basis throughout 2010/11. These reports will provide updates on how projects within the plan are being progressed and on performance against the indicators which the plan contains.

The Chief Executive outlined the work which is already underway to support Members in the process of developing the new corporate plan 2011/12.

Members agreed that the work of the Budget and Transformation Panel will also provide a key source of information for the development of the new corporate plan, focusing as it will on ensuring the organisation and its finances are fit for purpose and that priorities are set within the context of the resources available to deliver them.

Members also stressed the need for the corporate planning process to involve Members, as appropriate.

Action:

A timetable for developing the new corporate plan will be brought to the Panel's next meeting.