

CABINET
1ST MARCH, 2006

MINUTE EXTRACT FROM
RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
8TH FEBRUARY, 2006

R46. REVENUE MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2006/07 – 2009/10 – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) together with this Council's proposed Medium-Term Financial Plan and Revenue Budget for 2006/07 (also previously circulated), as submitted by the Council's Corporate Management Team.

Councillor Williams, the Leader of the Council, presented the Plan to the Scrutiny Committee which was based on the recommendations of the Corporate Management Team following notification of the provisional local government finance settlement. He reported at the meeting, however, that, following notification of the final local government finance settlement, it was now possible to increase the Council Tax by 4.38 per cent for 2006/07 and not by 4.5 per cent as recommended in the submitted report.

Questions were asked in relation to the assumed increases in the Council's existing Medium-Term Financial Plan of three per cent in other services; the reasons for the headroom; the projected achievement at the end of the financial year of the £521,000 departmental balances carried forward surplus; the amount of resources to be allocated to all eight community strategy themes in 2006/07; the number of residents surveyed as part of the Citizens Panel Survey, the need to keep Council Tax low in a relatively low waged economy; the reasons for the high increase in additional resources in the Corporate Services Department in 2006/07; planned and potential savings over the next few years in relation to Procurement; and the percentage change in the proposed Medium-Term Financial Plan and the Plan approved in March 2005.

Discussion also ensued on the possible implications that a recent ruling regarding VAT on car park income might have for this Authority in future years and the proposed budget for hackney carriages which showed a surplus of £67,000. It was reported that this budget was actually in deficit by a small amount as there were some recharges i.e. legal, finance and accommodation, to be allocated against it.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet be advised that this Scrutiny Committee, having considered the draft Revenue Medium-Term Financial Plan, supports the recommendations, as amended.