

**ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012**

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**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP – FINAL  
REPORT**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To present the outcome and findings of the Task and Finish Review Group established by the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the budget proposals contained within the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the period 2012/13 to 2015/16, which were within the remit of the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee.

**Summary**

2. Members will be aware that Cabinet have published the proposals in relation to the MTFP for the period 2012/13 – 2015/16 as a basis for public consultation. As in previous years, all Scrutiny Committees have been requested to undertake a piece of work in relation to the saving proposals within their individual remits and report back thereon.
3. A Task and Finish Review Group was therefore established by the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee and all Members were invited to participate.
4. The Task and Finish Review Group has met on one occasion with Officers and its final report is attached (**Appendix 1**).

**Recommendation**

5. It is recommended that Members approve the recommendation in the final report.

**Paul Wildsmith  
Director of Resources**

**Background Papers**

Medium Term Financial Plan 2012/13 to 2015/16

Claire Hutton: Extension 2364

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	This report has implications to address Health and Well Being for the residents of Darlington.
Sustainability	There are no issues relating to Sustainability which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address.
Wards Affected	This report does not impact on a particular Ward, but Darlington as a whole.
Groups Affected	This report does not impact on a particular Group, but Darlington residents as a whole.
Budget and Policy Framework	The MTFP, Budget and Council tax must all be agreed by full Council.
Key Decision	This is not a Key Decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an Urgent Decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Within the constraints of available resources it is necessary for the Council to make decisions involving prioritisation. The proposals contained in this report are designed to support the of the Sustainable Community Strategy, within those constraints.
Efficiency	This report does not identify specific efficiency savings.

## MAIN REPORT

### Introduction

1. This is the final report of the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee's Medium Term Financial Plan Task and Finish Review Group which was established by the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the relevant budget proposals contained within the MTFP for the period 2012/13 to 2015/16, within the remit of the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee and the future impact on services.

### Background Information

2. Members will be aware that Cabinet have published the proposals in relation to the MTFP for the period 2012/13 to 2015/16 as a basis for public consultation.
3. As in previous years, all Scrutiny Committees have been requested to undertake a piece of work in relation to the savings proposals within their individual remits and report back thereon.
4. A Task and Finish Review Group was therefore established by the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee.
5. Since then, the Task and Finish Review Group have met on one occasion and this report outlines the outcome of the findings.

### Membership of the Review Group

6. All Members of this Scrutiny Committee and other members were invited to attend the meetings of this Group.

### Acknowledgements

7. The Review Group acknowledges the support and assistance provided in the course of their investigation and would like to place on record their thanks to the following :-

Mr. Murray Rose – Director of People Services;  
Mrs. Pauline Mitchell – Assistant Director - Adult Social Care and Housing  
Ms. Chris Sivers, Assistant Director – Development and Commissioning;  
Mrs. Elizabeth Davison, Assistant Director – Finance;  
Mrs. Heather McQuade, Finance Manager of Housing and Adult Social Care; and  
Miss. Claire Hutton, Democratic Officer.

### Methods of Investigation

8. The Review Group met on 2nd December, 2011 with Officers and the notes are attached as **Appendix A**.

## **Conclusion**

9. Members welcomed the opportunity to discuss each proposal thoroughly with Officers to enable them to understand the reasoning behind each one.
10. Members understand the financial difficulty that this Council is facing to achieve the enforced budget savings.
11. From the work the Group have undertaken, we are satisfied that we have thoroughly scrutinised the proposals contained the Scrutiny Committee's remit and that no further work is required.

## **Recommendation**

12. It is recommended :-
  - (a) That thanks be conveyed to Officers for their involvement in this piece of work.
  - (b) **Review of support and consultation with older adults** – That the Group welcome the review and the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee be informed of the outcomes of the review.
  - (c) **Review Carers Service Contracts** – That the Group welcome the review and that the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee be informed of the outcomes of the review.
  - (d) **Finance Protection Service** – That the Group agree with the implementation of the charges.
  - (e) **Adult Transport Provision** – That the Group raise their concerns on the review and that the Adult and Housing Scrutiny Committee be informed of the outcome of the review.

### **Adult and Housing Scrutiny Committee MTFP Task and Finish Review Group**