
OVERVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Scrutiny and the Medium Term Financial Plan

2. At our meeting on the 25 February 2016, we received a presentation from Paul Wildsmith outlining phase 2 of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20, which is currently out to consultation. Members will be aware that the Council has had to reduce its expenditure significantly since 2010 and the proposals contained within phase 2 contain the latest proposals for spending reductions.
3. The presentation outlined the approach taken to deliver this next phase of spending reductions which has involved a review of all services to ascertain which services the Council must provide by law, the cost of those services and to what level they should be delivered at using a risk based approach, 'the Core Offer Budget' (COB) and by then identifying what funds might be available following the delivery of the COB to invest in discretionary services which Cabinet feel are priority for future investment, 'the Futures Fund'.
4. All Directors attended our meeting to give an overview of the proposals within their individual remits and the rationale behind those proposals and we would like to thank them for this and for the level of detail given, both verbally and in the documentation which will be valuable to our future considerations.
5. For each reduction to service levels and service cessation, a budget impact assessment has been undertaken that gives full details of each decision that will be taken to reduce expenditure to get to the COB and each Scrutiny Committee will be challenging those proposals in detail at special meetings and reporting back to our Scrutiny Committee so that we can formulate an overall response on behalf of Scrutiny to Cabinet.
6. In relation to our Scrutiny Committee, we will initially be holding two special meetings to consider the proposals within our remit and we will be establishing a Task and Finish Review Group to look specifically at Senior Management Costs within the Authority at the request of Members.

**Councillor Ian Haszeldine
Chair Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee**