

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

ORGANISATION AND RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE

24TH MARCH 2011

Scrutiny of the Business Plan 2011 – 2015

Purpose

1. To identify the content of the Council's new Business Plan relevant to the select committees and to determine an appropriate approach for future activity as requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Management and Co-ordination Liaison Board.

Background

2. The revised draft Business Plan was formally adopted at Council on 22 February having been approved by Cabinet the previous week. The 4 year Plan sets out how the Council intends to meet the challenges of reduced resources, legislative change and demographic impact whilst delivering the Council's vision to create stronger more resilient communities and achieving its goals. The Plan describes the changing landscape and strategic direction of the Council and gives a number of benefits and outcomes to the action it will take. The Financial Plan also approved by Council forms an appendix to the Business Plan (all councillors have copies of these documents and the latest version should be retained for future reference).
3. The focus of the Joint Scrutiny meeting on 10 February was the revenue and capital budget 2011/12 but did touch on some of the longer term issues in the Financial Plan as well as references to the Business Plan.
4. The Liaison Board met in the afternoon following the Joint Scrutiny meeting when it received the draft Business Plan. The Liaison Board decided to ask each select committee with the support of scrutiny officers to identify the themes and individual topics from the Business Plan that fell within their remit and ensure that this then became the focus for revising the forward work programmes of the committees.

Approach

5. It was felt that a common approach across the select committees would provide consistency for the future. The select committees already have a guide for how they should run their meetings and also recently discussed optimum size of agendas and briefing arrangements etc. This will also be turned into a guide for

consideration by the Liaison Board at the next meeting. A discussion paper on the benefits of having a positive working relationship with the Executive and the actions necessary to achieve this was also adopted by the Liaison Board last summer. The resulting protocol will be considered as part of the wider governance review on involvement of backbench members in decision making called for by the Leader.

6. Scrutiny officers in consultation with the chairmen and vice-chairmen have been through the Business Plan and have identified the following themes as relevant to the Organisation and Resources Select Committee:

Theme	Plan References	£ Budget	Comments and Scrutiny approach
Customers (Customer Access Strategy (2008))	Page 26		Scrutiny had a representative on the Customer Focus Board (Councillor Peggy Dow). Revised governance arrangements are now proposed – see separate item on agenda.
Systems Thinking (Service transformation and efficiencies)	Page 27 Page 75	Savings of £21.3m over 4 years	Already applied to 20 services Single corporate transformation team 4 main service areas subject to initial phase of scoping
Technology	Page 30	£17.46m 2011/12 £0.75m £0.35m in capital programme 2011/12	Existing Scrutiny Task Group (includes £1.464m 2011/12 + £2m to 2015 of savings due to new ICT Strategy and £1m on contracts) Revenue and Benefits IT System Planning IT System
Asset Management (Workplace Transformation)	Page 32 Page 79	£53.987m in 4 year capital programme including £17m of sales + £4.5m of net	Existing Scrutiny task group Renamed Campus and Operational Delivery Programme

(Work from home solutions)		cashable savings per year by 2014 Campus £30m capital £3.2m over 4 years	
Communications	Page 34	£2.586m 2011/12	
Culture	Page 40		
Human Resources (People Strategy 2008-12)	Page 43		Regular item to the Select Committee including management review, service reviews, pay harmonisation and local terms and conditions (to be reviewed and updated)
Procurement and Commissioning Programme	Page 72	Savings of £36m over 4 years	Existing Scrutiny task groups on major contracts, rapid scrutiny on the Corporate Procurement Strategy and presentations on the Programme to the Select Committee

7. Scrutiny officers, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Executive members, partners and directors, will undertake a work planning exercise around the above themes to establish their delivery, timescales, budget and potential scrutiny approaches. As mentioned above, this exercise should inform a revised work programme and be the priority for any future scrutiny activity. A draft revised work programme will be presented to the Committee for consideration at the next meeting.
8. The Select Committee needs to be aware of the budget implications for support services for 2011/12 and this should be taken into account when determining the future work programme of the Committee, particularly in terms of how much activity can be supported at any one time. The capacity of elected members especially those that lead on key activities should be also taken into account. The Liaison Board and Scrutiny Manager will continue to monitor the overall position regarding workload and pressures but this needs to be done in conjunction with the need to deliver positive outcomes for the Council as a whole.
9. In looking at priorities, it is also important to remember that the focus for O&S Select Committees should be on strategic and policy development matters and not 'local issues' which should be retained for consideration at Area Board level.
10. The forward planning activity outlined in this report should allow for better management of work flow and hopefully scheduling and communication of briefings and meetings. The adoption of the new Business Plan will mean that the current departmental delivery plans will be reviewed. These will also provide helpful detail on relevant themes and activities.

Recommendation

11. The Select Committee is asked to:

- (i) note that Council on 22 February adopted the 4 year Business Plan on recommendation from Cabinet;
- (ii) note the decision of the Liaison Board on 10 February that work is undertaken to identify relevant content from the Business Plan for the individual select committees;
- (iii) agree the list of themes set out above but acknowledging that further refinement will be made when more detail emerges; and

- (iv) recognise the budget implications and the demands on the leading scrutiny members in determining priorities and workload.
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Paul Kelly

Scrutiny Manager (and Designated Scrutiny Officer)