

Title:	Report of the Scrutiny Committee concerning the 2008/09 budget
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee:	Cllr Jeff Osborne
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Roy While, Finance
Reporting Officer:	Paul Mountford, Policy and Performance Services Manager

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet the comments of the Scrutiny Committee concerning the budget for 2008/09.

Background

On 23 January 2008 the Scrutiny Committee considered the draft proposals for the 2008/09 budget. The information was provided to the Committee in summary form and the Leader, Councillor Graham Payne, with Councillor Roy While, Portfolio Holder for Finance, and Ian Jamieson, Head of Finance were available to answer questions from Members.

Main issues

The Scrutiny Committee considered a number of issues and questions relating to the budget provisions, including:

- The rationale for the council tax increase set at 2%
- The impact of setting the budget on key services, particularly waste collection and recycling
- The way in which fees and charges are set, and the escalating costs of accessing certain services
- The number and scale of community development grants provided
- The financial implications of local government reorganisation

Effect on strategies and codes

There are no direct implications from this report on strategies and codes.

Risk management implications

There are a range of risks associated with setting the budget which have been detailed elsewhere, including in the budget summary report to the Scrutiny Committee on the 23 January.

Finance and performance implications

This report is about the budget for 2008/09 and it includes issues which may affect the budget.

Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to consider the comments of the Scrutiny Committee as follows:

That having heard the rationale for the 2008-9 budget this Committee acknowledges that it has been prudently prepared but raises its concerns over waste collection and recycling. The Committee has been informed that changes to the recycling service need to be made through the Wiltshire Waste Partnership. The introduction of kerbside collection of plastics and cardboard would have an impact on the proposed council tax increase for 2008-9.

Background papers

Information presented to the Scrutiny Committee on 23 January 2008.
Draft Scrutiny minutes 23 January 2008.

Agenda Item No. 5

Announcements from the Leader

Cllr Graham Payne

Agenda Item No. 6

Multi Storey Car Park Project – Update & Financing Options (Key Decision)

Report to Follow