

**EXTRACT MINUTE 40 FROM THE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
PANEL MEETING HELD ON 24 MAY 2004**

RESOLVED – that the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel recommend to Cabinet the following:

- Salisbury District Council should, in advance of a budget being prepared, be looking to prioritise services for potential cost reduction, in preparation for a necessity by the authority to make budgetary savings.
- Salisbury District Council should, when producing a forward financial strategy, also produce best and worst case scenario strategies, which would take account of possible fluctuations in the many variable factors included within the strategy.
- Salisbury District Council should not rely upon a raise in interest rates to reduce any budget deficit, as in the future, the rates are equally liable to fall.
- Salisbury District Council needs to find long term sustainable solutions to any budget shortfall which do not rely upon fluctuations in variable factors.
- The use of temporary agency staff should be closely monitored and utilised only in real cases of need, with processes set up to ensure a need does actually exist.
- Salisbury District Council to enter into a formal agreement with the Central Bidding Unit of Wiltshire County Council, whereby, one officer from that unit will dedicate some, or all, of their time, to Salisbury District Council and for that time be based in Salisbury. As part of the agreement, a service level agreement will be drawn up. After 12 months of operation the service will be reviewed, (but a report to be received after 6 months of operation). The funding officer will be employed to increase revenue streams and income for Salisbury District Council and not for outside bodies, especially the voluntary sector.
- Salisbury District Council should continue it's efforts to enable Council Tax payers to understand which services they receive from Salisbury District Council for the money raised.
- The reduction of inefficiencies and duplication of operations should be encouraged.