



## **SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2006**

### **JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

#### **BUDGET PROCESS - UPDATE**

##### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update for the Scrutiny Commission on the budget process. The item has been put on the agenda at the request of the Chairman, Dr M. O'Callaghan CC

##### **Background/Overview**

2. The County Council agreed the first Medium Term Financial Strategy in February 2006.
3. On 9<sup>th</sup> October a briefing session was held which provided an overview of the resource position facing the County Council over the next three years, the implications of the settlement on services provided by the Council and the new planning process. Copies of the slides used at the briefing were circulated to all members as an Information Item on 12<sup>th</sup> October (attached as Appendix 1).

##### **Discussions at Scrutiny Committees**

4. The process for considering the budget is different from previous years in that Scrutiny Committees at the request of the Cabinet are being provided with early sight of the financial strategy in relation to the preparation of the budget. The financial strategy will also be the subject of public consultation. The outcome of the discussions at the various scrutiny committees is attached at Appendix 2.
5. The Cabinet will meet on 21<sup>st</sup> November to consider the outcome of the first round of discussions at Scrutiny Committees. Scrutiny Committees will, as usual, be asked to comment on the detailed budget proposals in during January, dates set out below:-

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January                      Cabinet to meet to agree detailed proposals for further consultation

### **SCRUTINY MEETINGS**

Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Community Services Scrutiny
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Adult Social Care and Health
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Children and Young People's
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Environment
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Scrutiny Commission

The Cabinet will, having considered the views emerging from Scrutiny process and further consultation, consider the position again on 12<sup>th</sup> February before coming to a view on the recommendations to be put to the County Council on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2007.

### **Recommendation**

6. The Commission is asked to note the position

### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

7. There are no specific discernible equal opportunity implications as a result of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. All capital and revenue projects, whether County Council or externally funded, undergo appropriate planning to ensure that the needs of all users are taken into account. This includes intellectual as well as physical access and covers both services provided as well as the buildings they are provided from.

### **Background papers**

Medium Term Financial Plan approved by the County Council February 2006.

### **Circulation under sensitive issues**

None.

### **Officers to contact**

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