

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2010

TIMETABLE FOR THE PREPARATION  
AND SCRUTINY OF THE MTFS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Scrutiny Commission of the delay in the announcement of the Local Government Settlement and the implications of this on Scrutiny meetings to be held in January and those to deal with the scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

Background

2. As members will be aware the Local Government Settlement which had been expected in the first week of December has been delayed. At the time of writing this report it was expected that the announcement would be made at the earliest on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Implications of the delay

3. As a consequence of this delay, the Leader has decided that the Cabinet meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January to agree the draft MTFS should be rearranged to take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm.
4. Following consultation with the Scrutiny Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners it has been agreed that the meeting of the **Scrutiny Commission scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> January should now take place 10.00am**. In addition, officers were asked to look again at the proposed arrangements for the scrutiny of the MTFS. This has been done and the proposed timetable for scrutiny of the MTFS is set out below. The main change relates to the Budget and Performance Monitoring Scrutiny Panel which will now meet on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January (previously scheduled to meet on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January):

Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm	Cabinet agrees draft MTFS for consultation
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm	<i>Adults, Communities and Health Scrutiny Committee</i>
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm	<i>Children and Young People's Service Scrutiny Committee</i>
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January All day (10am – 4.00pm)	<i>Budget and Performance Scrutiny Panel</i>
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February at 2.00pm	<i>Scrutiny Commission</i>
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Cabinet considers responses and agrees draft MTFS for submission to the County Council on 23 February.

5. With regard to the proposed arrangements for scrutiny of the MTFS members are asked to note the following (which is based on previous practice):
- a). The Budget and Performance Monitoring Panel will consider the MTFS proposals in relation to all Departments of the County Council except the budgets of the Adult and Communities and Children and Young Peoples Service;
  - b). The role of the Scrutiny Commission will be to:-
    - i) consider the recommendations of Scrutiny Committees and resolve any conflicts between them and not to re-open the debate unless (ii) applies;
    - ii) receive any new information not previously available to committees and consider whether recommendations need to be amended;
    - iii) consider whether to adopt the recommendations of the Budget and Performance Panel.
  - c). Relevant Cabinet Members and Chief Officers will be required to attend Scrutiny meetings;
  - d). The timetable does not prevent individual members, through the group system to seek clarifications outside of Committee meetings. Commissioners are asked to emphasise the importance of this.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

None.

### **Recommendations**

6. The Commission is asked to note:
  - a) That its next meeting will take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00am;
  - b) The proposed arrangements for scrutiny of the MTFs as outlined in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report.

### **Officer to contact**

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