

APPENDIX 4

HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COMMENTS ON THE REVISED ESTIMATE AND REVENUE BUDGET

The Highways, Transportation and Waste Management Scrutiny Committee met on Thursday 23 January 2003. The following members of the Cabinet attended the meeting to respond to questions by the Scrutiny Committee:-

Mr. P. G. Winkless CC (Cabinet Lead Member for Environmental Issues, Waste Management, and the Minerals Plan).

Mrs. L. A. S. Pendleton CC - (Cabinet Lead Member for Highways and Transportation, and the Transport Plan).

REVISED ESTIMATE 2002/2003

Decisions

That the Scrutiny Commission be recommended to note the Revised Estimate for 2002/03.

REVENUE BUDGET 2003/2004

Comments / issues raised

The Committee noted:-

- (a) The growth proposals for implementing the Highways Network Management Best Value Review was broadly in line with the finance profile contained in the Review report. The growth proposals also included a sum of £60,000 for the purchase of new Highway Management computer software.
- (b) approximately £0.8 million relating to Concessionary Travel had been removed from the volume standstill budget. No provision had been included in the budget for any expansion of the existing concessionary travel scheme on the basis that despite the commitment given by the Leader of the County Council to provide match funding for any appropriate proposals put forward by District Councils no such request had been received from any District Councils.
- (c) The additional cost of disposing of whole car tyres from July 2003 had been taken account of in the additional growth for waste management / disposal.

- (d) The growth of £35,000 in 2003/04 for tree surveying on Highways, and subsequent maintenance was in response to recent court cases which found that a Highways Authority could be liable for an accident caused by a tree close to the highway.

Decisions

That the Scrutiny Commission be recommended to note the Revenue Budget for 2003/04.

Outstanding issues / questions

The Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management undertook to provide an explanation for the reduction of £100,000 in the 2003/04 budget (compared to the revised estimate of 2002/03) in the budget for recycling initiatives.

The comments of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management subsequently received are set out below:-

The Recycling Initiative budget for 2003/04 whilst apparently showing a reduction from 2002/03, does in fact reflect the level of previous years funding for recycling initiatives which includes a range of waste management awareness initiatives and schemes designed to divert waste from landfill. However the budget line for this in 2002/03 was increased to include a single year one off growth item of £70,000 to cover potential consultancy costs associated with the development of the strategy and PFI and a carry forward of £40,000 from 2001/02 for improving the Glass Bays at Whetstone Materials Recycling Facility.