



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP
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Record of a special meeting of the **CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham at 7.00 pm on **Thursday 13 January 2011**.

PRESENT: Mr N M Wainwright (in the Chair)
Mr K A Bool
Mr T C Ellis
Mr P J W Golden
Miss C L Jones
Mr B W Roper

Also in Attendance Mr R B Begy Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr P Frith Accountant (Resources)
Miss D Muddimer Strategic Director for Resources
Mr J R Tomlinson Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES: Mr T C King, Portfolio Holder for Development & Finance, Mr M E Baines, Capt V Dighe, Mr P D Ind

746 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

747 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions were received from members of the public.

SCRUTINY

748 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND BUDGET 2011/12

Report No. 9/2011 from the Strategic Director for Resources was received. The report presented the draft Budget for 2011/12 and invited the Panel to make representations to Cabinet on any matters the Panel considered should be taken into account in recommending the budget to Council.

Members received a brief presentation from the Strategic Director for Resources, summarising the main points for consideration. She drew the attention of the Panel to the key assumptions within the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and four alternative MTFP models based on varying some of these assumptions. Mr Begy provided Panel members with further background information to these assumptions, drawing particular attention to:-

- The receipt of Council Tax Freeze Grant equivalent to a 2.5% annual increase

based on the assumption that Council Tax would not increase annually by more than 2.5% from 2012/13.

- Interest receivable assumptions on bank deposits were based on best advice re long-term market predictions.
- The New Homes Bonus would form a source of grant funding for a six year period based on the number of new homes (net of demolitions) in each year. The size of the grant would be slightly enhanced to the extent that any new builds were affordable homes. This scheme was assured for the first two years, but was less clear after that point.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- The Flood Grant was a new grant and not ring-fenced.
- The Government was considered to have been relatively generous with Highways capital funding, which was to be provided in the form of non-ring-fenced grants. It was not yet clear whether capital for education and the additional health sector funding were also in the form of non-ring-fenced grants.
- The implementation of All Pay for payment collection at outlets throughout the county was thought to be an important strategic decision. Implementation costs would mean that savings were unlikely to be achieved until year two. The Council Tax leaflet to be posted to all households would include a map of where to find these outlets.
- It was generally agreed that the size of cuts required had provided a sharp focus to the budget-setting exercise which had been undertaken efficiently and well.
- The public consultation would be based on the outline budget contained in Report 9/2011. The line by line detailed budget was likely to become available for consideration in March 2011.

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The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.31 pm.

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