

## **BUDGET PROPOSALS 2014/15 – COMMENTS FROM POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEES**

Contact Officer: Khalid Ahmed  
Telephone: 01895 250833

### **REASON FOR ITEM**

To consider the full set of Policy Overview Committee comments on Cabinet's budget proposals, their overall implications and to submit those comments to Cabinet.

### **OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE**

That the Committee:

1. Consider the comments from the other Policy Overview Committees;
2. Seek clarification where necessary and;
3. Submit an agreed set of comments forward to the Cabinet for it to consider alongside this Policy Overview Committee's budget proposals.

### **INFORMATION**

As part of the Constitution (Budget and Policy Framework Procedure), Policy Overview Committees have a role to review the Cabinet's draft budget proposals, which were set out at Cabinet on 19 December 2013.

At each Policy Overview Committee in January, consideration was given to reports which provided details of budget proposals relating to the remit of each Policy Overview Committee.

The Policy Overview Committee comments are set out as below:-

#### **Residents' & Environmental Services POC – 22 January 2014 (Residents Services)**

"The Committee wished to congratulate officers on the budget which had kept the full range of the Council's services on track despite the considerable cuts being faced.

Members were particularly pleased to see that funds had been set aside for renovations to the grade 2 listed Uxbridge Cemetery Gatehouse. This was an area of great interest to the Committee and had made up a significant proportion of the recent review into the Borough's cemeteries."

---

Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee

4 February 2014

PART I – MEMBERS, PUBLIC & PRESS

### **Children, Young People and Learning POC –15 January 2014 (Children, Young People and Learning Services )**

“The Committee welcomed the budget report and commended the officers’ work to retain a high-quality service in this challenging financial environment.

The Committee was particularly supportive of the Council's schools expansions programme and the ongoing work to ensure that every child in the Borough had a school place. Members were eager that the "bulge" continued to be monitored both at primary and secondary levels so that future generations of children could be ensured of access to high-quality educational facilities.

Although the Council's attempts to make efficiency savings through the review of looked after children placements was supported by the Committee, Members wished to emphasise that the primary focus in this area should be on securing the right, rather than the cheapest, placement.”

### **Social Services, Housing and Public Health POC – 29 January 2014 (Adult Social Care, Housing & Public Health)**

“The Committee noted the various budget proposals and welcomed the work of the Council in this demanding and complex area. In particular, the Committee was encouraged by the effective use of zero based budgeting and ongoing work in relation to the preventative agenda so that informed decisions were taken to mitigate future risks. The Committee acknowledged there may be a number of potential barriers in relation to the implementation of the Care Bill given the details which are still emerging, but were reassured that the Council’s Programme Board had been established to examine the impact of the Bill on Hillingdon.

The Committee was concerned about the overspend particularly in relation to Bed and Breakfast accommodation, but welcomed the ongoing work being conducted through the Hillingdon Improvement Programme to bring this back to sustainable levels. The Committee also congratulated officers on their market development work, in recognising the need for affordable housing and the actions that were being taken to increase this provision.

Additionally, the Committee noted the successful redesign of services and the emphasis placed on the risk stratification process so that interventions are made earlier. The Committee also noted the importance of effective monitoring to ensure that early interventions result in better and sustained outcomes for residents as well as supporting service management.

The Committee welcomed the merger of the Rapid Response and Re-ablement Teams and the further work being conducted to support people to live independently in their own homes.”

**Corporate Services & Partnerships POC – 14 January 2014 (Finance and Administration)**

The Committee reviewed the relevant budgets in detail and whilst it did not make any specific comment, Members acknowledged that the delivery of services to residents of the Borough was not being affected by the savings which the Council was making.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Relevant minute extracts from the POCs