

## BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

### CABINET

Wednesday, 2nd February, 2011

These minutes are draft until confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting.

#### **Present:**

Councillor Francine Haeberling	Leader of the Council
Councillor Malcolm Hanney	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources
Councillor Terry Gazzard	Cabinet Member for Development and Major Projects
Councillor Charles Gerrish	Cabinet Member for Service Delivery
Councillor Vic Pritchard	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Housing
Councillor Chris Watt	Cabinet Member for Children's Services

#### **136 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair was taken by Councillor Francine Haeberling, Leader of the Council. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **137 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair drew attention to the evacuation procedure as set out in the Agenda.

#### **138 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Councillor David Hawkins

#### **139 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

There were none.

#### **140 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

There was none.

#### **141 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS**

There were 3 questions from the following people: Councillors Nigel Roberts, Paul Crossley, Caroline Roberts.

*[Copies of the questions and response, including supplementary questions and responses if any, have been placed on the Minute book as Appendix 1 and are available on the Council's website.]*

#### **142 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS**

All statements were made at the relevant item on the Agenda.

#### **143 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING**

Councillor Chris Watt asked for an amendment to be made to the record of a statement he had made at the meeting. The Democratic Services Officer agreed to amend the Minutes before signature. On a motion from Councillor Francine Haeberling, seconded by Councillor Chris Watt, it was

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th November 2010 (as amended) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **144 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET**

There were none.

#### **145 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BODIES**

The Corporate Performance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel had submitted recommendations from its meeting held on Mon 31<sup>st</sup> January for Cabinet's consideration when discussing the Budget. [*The Draft Minutes of that meeting, and the Summary of recommendations made from each Overview and Scrutiny Panel, are attached to these Minutes as Appendices 3 and 4.*]

The Chair announced that both documents had been placed in the public gallery before the meeting; and that they would be considered at Item 14 on the Agenda. She thanked Councillor David Dixon (Chair, CYP O&S Panel) for the work of his Panel in preparing the recommendations.

#### **146 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING**

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

#### **147 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS - APRIL 2010 TO DECEMBER 2010**

Councillor Malcolm Hanney introduced the item and proposed the recommendations. He commended all areas of the Council for living within the Budget despite the in-year cuts imposed by government.

Councillor Charles Gerrish seconded the recommendations

##### Rationale

The report is presented as part of the reporting of financial management and budgetary control required by the Council

##### Other Options Considered

None

On a motion from Councillor Malcolm Hanney, seconded by Councillor Charles Gerrish, it was

**RESOLVED** (unanimously):

- (1) To ASK Strategic Directors to continue to work towards managing within budget in the current year for their respective service areas, and to manage below budget where possible by not committing unnecessary expenditure, through tight budgetary control.
- (2) To NOTE this year's revenue budget position;
- (3) To NOTE the capital expenditure position for the Council in the financial year to the end of December and the year end projections;
- (4) To AGREE the proposed revenue virements;
- (5) To NOTE the changes in the capital programme;
- (6) To APPROVE the proposed additions to the 2010/11 Capital Programme.

#### **148 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2011/12**

Councillor Malcolm Hanney introduced the item and proposed the recommendations. He referred to the table of non-specified investment limits on page 15 of Appendix 2, and explained the table should include Long-term credit rating A+ for 2 years for UK counterparties.

Councillor Charles Gerrish seconded the proposal.

##### Rationale

Report is a statutory requirement

##### Other Options Considered

None

On a motion from Councillor Malcolm Hanney, seconded by Councillor Charles Gerrish, it was

##### **RESOLVED** (unanimously):

- (1) To RECOMMEND the actions proposed within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement to February Council for approval;
- (2) To RECOMMEND the borrowing and debt rescheduling strategy to February Council for approval;
- (3) To RECOMMEND the Investment Strategy to February Council for approval;
- (4) To RECOMMEND the proposed changes to the authorised lending lists to February Council for approval;
- (5) To NOTE the Prudential Indicators and delegate authority for updating the indicators prior to approval at Full Council on 16th February 2010 to the Divisional Director - Finance and Cabinet Member for Resources, in light of any changes to the recommended budget.

#### **149 FINANCIAL PLAN 2011/12-2013/14, BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2011/12**

Councillor Eleanor Jackson made a statement *[attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2 but not available on the web]* in which she recognised the difficult job

facing the Cabinet but expressed a number of objections to the proposals and to the way the information had been provided by what she felt was drip feeding via the local press. She also felt it was a myth to say that frontline services could be protected. She appealed for £25,000 bridging money to be made available from the Headroom Fund so that youth services in Radstock could have a breathing space to maintain staff hours and to find alternative premises. She also asked for a commitment from Cabinet to repair and modernise the Victoria Hall in Radstock.

Councillor John Bull made an *ad hoc* statement, which he said was a repetition of the same points he had made at the Overview and Scrutiny meeting concerning the allocations from Headroom Fund. On behalf of the Labour Group, he suggested that three allocations from the Headroom Fund should be made as part of the Budget: Replace £27K into the budget for Children and Young People Services; Allocate £8K to complete the funding of Bath Contact Centre for Parents; Allocate £5K for the Children's Rights Service.

Councillor Paul Crossley made an *ad hoc* statement in which he said that he felt there were still some massive commitments to huge projects of dubious value, an example of which was the Bath Rapid Transport proposals.

The Chair invited Councillors David Dixon (Chair of Corporate Performance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel) and Caroline Roberts (Chair of Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel) to address the Cabinet.

Councillor David Dixon referred to the Panel's recommendations which had been put into the public gallery before the meeting [*attached to these Minutes as Appendices 3 and 4*] which included the Labour Group comments. He thanked the Cabinet for giving consideration to the Panel's recommendations.

Councillor Caroline Roberts observed that the previous year had seen a huge cut in the Environmental Services budget and she praised the staff of that service for achieving so much with such reduced funds. She asked for this to be recognised in the current Budget and thanked the Cabinet for giving serious consideration to the comments made by the Panel.

Councillor Malcolm Hanney in introducing the item, referred to the Proposed Base Revenue Budget Cash Limits [*attached to these Minutes as Appendix 5*] which had not been included in the Agenda despatch but which had been made available in the public gallery before the meeting.

He echoed the thanks to officers for their hard work in such difficult circumstances. He felt that the Cabinet had engaged well with Overview and Scrutiny Panels. He observed that there had been a 16% cut across the board in grants from government and warned that about £3M of government grants were yet to be confirmed so the Revenue budget might still be subject to some change. He joined with others in expressing concern about the impact of Academies on the corporate schools support budget. In response to the points made by Councillor Jackson, He said that he was willing to discuss with Councillor Jackson the support for Radstock and for the youth service; he reminded Cabinet that the previous budget had put an extra £50K into youth services and the current Budget proposed an additional £105K. He referred to the Cabinet's consistent position on securing the future of the Victoria Hall and said that he would want to discuss all the options with the new Town Council, once elected. He promised to take on board all the comments from Overview and Scrutiny Panels and explained that the Cabinet was determined to work closely with officers and unions to minimise compulsory redundancies.

Councillor Hanney in moving the motion pointed out that his motion was amended at clause (e) from those published in the report.

Councillor Francine Haeberling seconded the motion. She congratulated officers and Councillor Hanney for continually delivering balanced budgets and said she was optimistic about the future.

Councillor Charles Gerrish referred to the extra £3M spent on highways, which he said had led to a massive improvement in the work done. The money had in effect been an "invest to save" and had been well spent. He referred to the Transport Capital Programme and observed that it had led to job creation. He was particularly pleased about the Rossiter Road Scheme and the significant investment in Keynsham.

Councillor Chris Watt said that Children's Services had faced major challenges as a result of the government's emergency budget. He agreed with Councillor Jackson that it was dangerous to suggest that frontline services can all be protected in this climate. There was still a need for clarity about the "Shout Out" and other projects. The Children's Society work had been recommissioned, so he could not yet confirm funding. He pointed out that the additional fund for the Youth Service had not appeared at the last minute, as had been suggested, but he had consistently argued for the "enabling fund" to support community groups to run their engagement activities. He welcomed the proposed budget.

Councillor Vic Pritchard referred to Community Learning, which would have a minimum funding level of £500K but after this year it would end. Options were to collaborate with Bristol, as a junior partner, which was not ideal; or to work with the City of Bath College – which would still require some redundancies.

Councillor Hanney in summing up agreed that there had to be some very difficult decisions, not least because of the direct cuts in government grants. The Cabinet were committed to investing in the future which would create jobs. He commended the proposals to Cabinet.

### Rationale

The rationale is contained in the supporting paper to the report. The report reflects information already presented to Overview and Scrutiny by the Director. The Council's Section 151 Officer has ensured that a prudent and balanced budget is set on time which properly takes into account the financial constraints and risks facing the Council.

### Other Options Considered

The supporting report and appendices also contain the other options considered in making the recommendations

On a motion from Councillor Malcolm Hanney, seconded by Councillor Francine Haeberling, it was

**RESOLVED** (unanimously):

To RECOMMEND to Council:

(1) That the Council approve:

(a) The General Fund net revenue budget for 2011/12 of £121.742m with no increase in Council Tax.

(b) That no Special Expenses be charged other than Town and Parish Council precepts for 2011/12.

(c) The adequacy of reserves at Appendix 1 Table 9 with a risk-assessed level of £10.5m.

(d) The individual service cash limits proposed for 2011/12.

(e) That the specific arrangements for the governance and release of corporate headroom (which includes any amounts for which the purpose has not been specified in the budget report in relation to the transfers to revenue budget contingency, the ongoing headroom allocations and the one off headroom allocations in Appendix 1) be delegated to the Council's Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Chief Executive together with the chair of the CPR Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

(2) That the Council include the precepts set and approved by other bodies including the Local Precepts of Town Councils, Parish Councils and the Charter Trustees of the City of Bath, and those of the Fire and Police Authorities in its Council Tax setting.

(3) That the Council acknowledges the Section 151 officer's report on the robustness of the proposed budget and the adequacy of the Council's reserves and approves the conditions upon which the recommendations are made.

(4) That in relation to the capital budget the Council:

(a) Approves a capital programme of £34.108m for 2011/12 and notes indicative items shown in italics for 2011/12 and the programme for 2012/13 to 2015/16 including the planned sources of funding;

(b) Approves the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy;

(c) Approves the Capital Prudential Indicators.

(5) That the Council notes the O&S review of Medium Term Service and Resource Plans and 2011/12 Service Action Plans and instructs the relevant officers to finalise and publish their Medium Term Service and Resource Plans and Service Action Plans by end of March 2011, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and in light of feedback from the O&S reviews, and in line with the approved cash limits.

(6) To AUTHORISE the Divisional Director – Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, to make any necessary presentational improvements to the draft budget proposal prior to submission to Council.

The meeting ended at 5.50 pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date Confirmed and Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by Democratic Services**

## CABINET MEETING 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011

The following Statements and Questions had been registered by the time of publication.

### REGISTERED SPEAKERS

There were 2 notices of intention to make a statement at the meeting. Where the intention is to speak about an item on the Agenda, the speaker will be offered the option to speak near the beginning of the meeting or just before the Agenda item.

- Major Tony Crombie  
Re: Potential New Leisure Centre
- Cllr Eleanor Jackson  
Re: Budget (Agenda Item 14)

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

01

**Question from:** Councillor Nigel Roberts

- a) What is the budget for promoting cycling and cycle works?  
 b) What remains unspent this year?  
 c) What plans are there to ensure this is spent this financial year?

**Answer from:** Councillor Charles Gerrish

*(a) **Cycle Schemes** included in 2010/11 Capital Programme*

- *Two Tunnels, Bath - The total cost of the scheme is £1.8 million. There is £200,000 capital funding this financial year, Links to School funding £222,000, Connect 2 funding £961,000*
- *Five Arches, Midsomer Norton - The total scheme cost estimate is £694,000. There is currently £69,000 allocated within Capital Programme, £311,000 from Links to school funding and £250,000 Connect 2 funding has been awarded.*
- *Cycle Parking - £5000. This is for cycle parking within the public highway and for The Take a Stand Scheme where small organisations can apply for a free cycle stand.*
- *Bath Cycle network - £45,000. This is made up of a number of schemes including Churchill Gyrotory cycle link, Destructor Bridge Cycle route, The Avenue cycle contra-flow and works on the Claverton Down route.*
- *Bristol and Bath Railway Path/Bath Spa University cycle link feasibility study - £10,000*
- *Farrington Gurney and Midsomer Norton shared use path feasibility study - £5,000*

**Cycle Training** - *There have been 608 school pupils trained to date and the expected total will be 11,000 by the end March 2011.*

**Bike It** - *The budget to provide for a Bike It officer £60,000. The council contribute £15,000, Sustrans £45,000. The Bike It officer worked with 12 schools*

last year, and is now supporting those schools, whilst working more closely with a further 6 this year. Surveys averaging out the results from all 12 schools between May 2009 and June 2010 indicate that the number of pupils that cycle to school at least once or twice a week quadrupled from 5% to 21%, and for those cycling everyday the figures raised from 1% to 6%, whilst those reporting to never cycle to school dropped from 84% to 49%.

**Sports and Active Leisure Initiatives**

- SkyRide (Mass participation family cycling event) - £47,000 (£17,500 PCT funding)
- SkyRide Local (A series of small group cycle rides designed to get everyone cycling regularly in a fun and informal way) - £5,000 (joint funding with British Cycling)
- Somer Valley Wheels - £14,355
- Avon Valley Wheels - £2,385
- Aiming High for Disabled Children - £10,000 capital funding to purchase adapted cycles

b) and (c) combined answer:

The majority of capital programme budgets are expected to be spent by the end of March 2011. However, we have agreed an underspend of approximately £50,000 with the Two Tunnels Team because the project is progressing more slowly than anticipated. A request will be made to carry this over into the next financial year. Only £1,136 of the Sports and Active Leisure budget remains unspent.

02

**Question from:** Councillor Paul Crossley

The Consultation on Culverhay closure ends on the 26th of Jan. At the last Full Council I asked Cllr Watt to consider taking the final decision in public. He declined to do so. In view of the great public interest in this subject I ask you as Leader of the Council to use your power and prerogative to make the final Culverhay decision a Cabinet decision as opposed to a single member decision so that it is considered in public

**Answer from:** Councillor Francine Haeberling

*In his previous response Councillor Watt, Cabinet Member for Children's Services explained why he proposed to make a single member decision concerning Culverhay School in line with normal council practice.*

*The Cabinet considered matters relating to Culverhay School in July, August and November last year. All of these meetings were open to the public. In addition there have been two 'Call-In' debates at specially convened meetings of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel, again these were open to the public.*

*At each of these meetings Councillor Watt has presented the reasons for wide consultation, specific consultation and the decisions reached.*

*Past practice concerning school closures and amalgamation has been that following the required forms and periods of consultation, final decisions are taken by the Cabinet Member as single member decisions.*

*I acknowledge that this is an important matter, however, I believe that its*



*importance has been recognised through the extensive consultation and scrutiny that has taken place. If therefore remains appropriate for Councillor Watt to make a single member decision, the issue will not return to Cabinet.*

**Supplementary Question:**

Does the Leader of the Council not think that since this is the first time that the decision would have a real consequence (that of closing a school), she should reconsider her response and should agree that the decision should be made at a public Cabinet Meeting?

**Answer from:** Councillor Francine Haerberling

*No. It is existing practice for such decisions to be made by the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder.*

03

**Question from:** Councillor Caroline Roberts

In the Bath Transportation Package expression of interest document the Council has indicated that it is 'minded' to contribute an extra £9.1 million towards the costs of the package. What is the anticipated source of this extra contribution?

**Answer from:** Councillor Malcolm Hanney

*The provisions for Council contributions to the Bath Package costs are set out within the proposed Capital Programme for 2011/2012 to 2015/2016 and are fully funded through prudential borrowing for which full revenue provision is made within the Budget.*

*There is also further potential to utilise additional capital receipts should they arise in the future, for example as a result of any proposals for partnering with the Council's commercial estate, although the capital programme is in no way reliant upon such receipts.*

**Supplementary Question:**

In the light of his reply, can the Cabinet member say how much money has been spent on advertising their intentions?

**Answer from:** Councillor Malcolm Hanney

*I am not aware that the Council has spent any money on advertising this.*

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC**

There were none

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**Corporate Performance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny  
Panel, Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS DRAFT COMMENTS AND  
RESOLUTIONS ON SERVICE ACTION PLANS 2011**

**Corporate Performance and Resources – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Panel members asked questions on the details of some of the service plans presented in the report.

**FINANCE – SERVICE ACTION PLAN**

Tim Richens – Divisional Director Finance introduced his service plan explaining the two phases of restructuring. He also explained that the service had increased demands on it at this time.

The Panel asked the following questions and made the following points:

Councillor Barrett warned against constant restructuring as he explained that stability promotes more productivity. Councillor Macrae stated that he hoped the service would not get caught up with the 'centralise, standardise and simplify' as one size does not fit all, he hoped the staff would be part of delivery teams.

The Divisional Director explained that some areas of finance lend themselves to being centralised such as processing invoices. He acknowledged the point about staff working with front line teams. He explained that some restructuring was taking place in phase one but that some services were being left as they are until the shape of the new Council is known.

The Strategic Director explained that there was some re-organisation in the finance department and that this was in line with other restructuring within the Council. He reassured members that there was a constancy of direction.

**LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES SERVICE ACTION PLAN**

Vernon Hitchman – Divisional Director Legal and Democratic Services introduced the report and explained some of the savings he proposed. He explained that overall 2011/12 he would be trying to keep the service much as it is but after elections in May 2011 there would be discussions with the new Council about support requirements. He explained that his major concern was the elections and getting the new Council running.

The Panel asked the following questions and made the following points:

Councillor Macrae warned against the cost of giving all members IPADS. The Strategic Director explained that no conclusions had been formed from the IPAD trial yet. The objective had been to give members something more portable. He explained that if members did have IPADS, they would not also

be provided with a laptop and printing facilities. He stated that there is a question over whether it would work for all Councillors and a good business case would have to be made in any case.

Councillor Barrett thanked the Division Director for the clear structure chart in the report.

Councillor Dixon noted the potential savings around members allowances and agreed that member must make savings too.

## **POLICY AND PARTNERSHIPS SERVICE ACTION PLAN**

David Trethewey – Divisional Director Policy and Partnerships introduced an update report on his service (*a copy of this presentation can be viewed on the Councils minute book for this panel held with Democratic Services, Guildhall, Bath*)

The Panel asked the following questions and made the following points:

Councillor Barrett asked about the terms ‘total place’ and ‘think family’. The Divisional Director explained that this was when a locality or number of families are targeted for extra support. In response to a question from Councillor Barrett on how the changes in the NHS would affect Policy and Partnerships, the Divisional Director explained that the role would be a key question for the new Council. He also explained the proposal around ‘Health Watch’. The Strategic Director explained that there were going to be huge changes in public health and there would be money set aside so that changes could be properly managed.

Councillor Macrae stated that he felt there was a concentration on savings, he felt some savings could be made through investment. He stated that there should be a full review of what the community could expect support with. He said that ward members know their community and there was a role for advocacy. He further explained that he would rather not enforce fiscal savings if the impact on the community is not known. The Strategic Director acknowledged the point about member’s community knowledge. He explained that this authority’s approach was to try and work with the voluntary sector through this time.

Councillor Clarke stated that he felt this service was run well and commended its approach.

Councillor Dixon mentioned the work of ‘regenerate’, he explained that the authority had made large savings through their work and their money was about to run out. He stated he would like to see them do the same kind of work in other areas. Councillor Inker added that he had worked with ‘regenerate’ in Keynsham and that they needed a longer period to make the work sustainable. The Divisional Director explained that it was ultimately up to the Council setting the budget in February as to whether this type of work is funded. Andy Thomas, Policy and Partnerships explained that the

organisation had always been aware that their funding was for a set period. He further explained that 'regenerate' had been encouraged to seek external funding. Councillor Dixon stated that 'regenerate' often advise the Council as well as the work they have done and that there is a danger the Council is asked too much of them.

## **PROPERTY SERVICE ACTION PLAN**

Andrew Pate – Strategic Director Resources and Support Services updated the panel that the Traded Services Review was scheduled for March 2011.

The Panel asked the following questions and made the following points:

Councillor Macrae pointed out that paragraph 4 of the High Level Action Plan concentrated on Bath, the Strategic Director said he took the point but that primarily, the commercial estate in the city.

## **REVENUES, BENEFITS AND COUNCIL CONNECT SERVICE ACTION PLAN**

Ian Savigar – Divisional Director Revenues, Benefits and Council Connect introduced his report to the panel and made a presentation on his service (*a copy of this presentation can be viewed on the Councils minute book for this panel held with Democratic Services, Guildhall, Bath*). *This presentation will be sent to members of the panel.*

The Panel asked the following questions and made the following points:

Councillor Macrae stated that he could see that this was very complicated. He asked what would happen to Council staff if the new universal credit was being dealt with by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). The Divisional Director explained that the DWP was advertising for local authority staff to help them set up systems etc. He explained that there were still a lot of unknowns and he had concerns. Councillor Macrae stated that it was frustrating that this would be lost as a function of the Council especially as it has such a good reputation. The Strategic Director explained that there would be a fundamental change, this authority had worked hard on the one stop shop approach and the DWP approach was self service on the internet so he had concerns about vulnerable groups.

Councillor Dixon stated that this service is flexible and adaptable and he appreciated that these fundamental changes were being presented as business as usual, he stated that it would be a great shame to lose staff here. Councillor Macrae added that he had concerns about losing the one stop shop facility.

The Chair asked if there were any other significant changes in any of the other services. The Strategic Director explained that there was no change in direction but progress continued.

Updated version – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

Councillor Dixon thanked the officers for their input. He explained that the panel would receive comments from all other panels on their service plans along with the Budget report at their next meeting (31<sup>st</sup> January 2010). He stated that this was a good system of scrutiny on the budget and that the panel valued the process.

It was **RESOLVED** that the panel note the Service Action Plans.

### **Children and Young People – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

#### **SERVICE ACTION PLAN - CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

The Children's Services Director introduced this item to the Panel. He handed out to them the Equality Impact Assessment that was written alongside the Service Action Plan.

He informed the Panel that he had met recently with Councillor's Bull and Speirs and that he was due to meet with Councillor Hartley later in the week to discuss the Service Action Plan and overall Budget position.

He reminded the Panel that in June 2010 the Service suffered a substantial reduction in their Area Based Grant. 24% of the grant was removed which equated to £798,000 (non-ring fenced) and £532,000 (ring fenced).

He spoke of how other previous grants that the Service had come to rely on had also come to an end stating that the Service would have £1.5m less this April than it did in April 2010. The Service has also had to make a 5% reduction to its overall budget alongside all the other Council services – this figure is £984,000.

He added that the Service had planned well for this scenario, but said that the future would be challenging.

He spoke of how a number of staff had left the Service on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010 and that unfortunately more redundancies were expected to take place on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Councillor John Bull wished to congratulate the Children's Services Director and his staff for their continuing hard work. He also stated how shocked he was at the huge reduction in funding by the Coalition Government to Connexions that was introduced halfway through the financial year. A decision which resulted in careers advice being removed from numerous Year 9 & 10 pupils.

He added that he felt that the reduction in funding to both Shout Out and Bath Contact would be a big loss.

Updated version – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

The Children's Services Director replied that he believed a Careers Advice Information Service could be in line to replace the work done previously by Connexions, but that he was unsure of the timescales involved.

Councillor Marie Longstaff commented that the company she works for, Future Publishing, used to allow staff to take part in a career guidance scheme to help young people and give something back to the community. She wondered if local companies could be asked to become more involved in helping young people with their careers.

The Children's Services Director replied that he felt that most Secondary Schools at some point invited local businesses in to address the school or specific classes.

Councillor Chris Watt, Cabinet Member for Children's Services added that maybe Future could offer to print / distribute the In Care Council newsletter.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to approve the Children's Services - Service Action Plan as printed.

### **Healthier Communities and Older People – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

#### **SERVICE ACTION PLAN 2011-2012 ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HOUSING**

The Chairman invited Janet Rowse and Jane Shayler to introduce the report.

Janet Rowse went through the report and highlighted for the Panel the areas of consistency and the areas of change since the medium term financial and service plan was presented in November 2010. It was confirmed that the headline finances remain constant, but that the subsidy for Community Meals was not longer included as a proposal within the Service Plan.

Jane Shayler said that the funding for the services from the third/voluntary sector supported 160 contracts (but not necessary 160 providers). So far the savings had been identified and agreed with the providers without the impact on delivered services.

The Panel asked the following questions and made the following points:

Councillor Brinkhurst asked if there was any Member input into the third/voluntary sector grant.

Jane Shayler responded that the Council delegated to the officers to make decisions on voluntary grant programme. Councillor Pritchard does sit on the commissioning body, which is multi agency group, but he had no input in the decision.

Councillor Brinkhurst commented that Members of the Council should be informed on the decision making process for contracts with the third/voluntary sector. The Panel agreed with that comment.

Jane Shayler informed the Panel that the spending on the Community Learning Service had been reduced to the level of specific grant funding. The capacity of the Community Development workers would be reduced as an outcome of the reduced funding. Jane Shayler explained that Community Development workers supported community groups by giving them advice finances and similar issues and act as a link between different community groups.

Councillor Allen said that the reduced capacity of the Community Development workers would not fit within Big Society idea.

Jane Shayler said that 3 individuals would be affected but that there was ongoing discussion with the Policy and Partnerships on that issue.

The Chairman said that the service didn't seem to be particularly placed well within the Council structure and that they seemed more to be within Policy and Partnerships service. He felt that it would be wrong to lose very valuable service as they would fit within the Big Society idea.

Councillor Pritchard said that it would not be the end of the service. £370k of the grant could be put into the Bath College who would take on community learning, but some jobs would be lost.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- 1) Note the Service Action Plan; and
- 2) Send the following comments to the Corporate Performance and Resources O&S Panel:
  - a. Members of the Council should be informed on the decision making process for contracts with the third/voluntary sector;
  - b. The Healthier Communities and Older people O&S Panel felt that it would be wrong to lose Community Learning as a valuable service that fit well within the Big Society idea and that although there was not request to amend the service action plans for Adult Services, the Council should look into other ways to keep that service running.

### **Safer and Stronger Communities – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ACTION PLAN**

Matthew Smith introduced the report.

The Panel asked the following questions and made the following points:



The Chair asked about the effect that the new crematorium built in Shepton Mallet would have on Bath and North East Somerset area.

Matthew Smith replied that the catchment area for Bath crematorium was up to Shepton Mallet, and that might change soon.

Councillor Hedges asked about the staff views on these cuts.

Matthew Smith responded that although the moral was not on its highest level, the staff's job satisfaction was very good considering that they were given more freedom to do their work.

Councillor Wood asked about the vacant position for Parking manager and the future structure of the Parking Enforcement team.

Matthew Smith replied that the intention was to change the structure of Parking Services and also to recruit more staff for that service.

Councillor Symonds asked if there would be a reduction in waste trucks in near future.

Matthew Smith responded that the anticipated savings would be from reduced mileage in terms of the domestic refuse. The service also anticipated an increase in food waste collection.

The Chair asked about the intention to charge for toilet usage in the Avon Street car park.

Matthew Smith responded that the facilities would need to be improved first and that it would be carried out together with the Property Services. If all goes with the plan toilets should be open by March-April.

The Chair said that she didn't think that the Panel engaged enough with the Cleansing Task and Finish Group and she didn't think that the public was involved as planned.

Matthew Smith responded that the work on public involvement was in progress and that the Cleansing Task and Finish Group need to be long term campaign.

The Chair suggested that an update on the Cleansing Task and Finish Group be on the agenda for March meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- 1) Note the Environmental Service Action Plan and pass the comments to the Corporate Performance and Resources O&S Panel; and
- 2) Have an update on the Cleansing Task and Finish Group for March meeting (to be confirmed).

## **TOURISM, LEISURE AND CULTURE SERVICE ACTION PLAN**

David Lawrence introduced the report and also the statement of purpose for Tourism, Leisure and Culture Service.

The Panel asked the following questions and made the following comments:

David Lawrence said that there would be no intention to close any of the libraries due to the Council's responsibility to provide those services.

Councillor Wood asked about the volunteers participations in library services. David Lawrence replied that the volunteers would be involved in library services but not to replace professionals.

Councillor Symonds said that David Lawrence's services had been fantastic income generator and that he would not support any cuts in services. He expressed his concern about the events and festivals in Bath.

David Lawrence replied that the city had the highest volume of visitors for the past two years. The aim of the Council was that the visitors leave Bath with the feeling to come back again and also to encourage them to spend. Councillor Jackson asked about the improvements of the Midsomer Norton and Radstock libraries.

David Lawrence replied that there were severe damages due to flooding on those buildings. The buildings would soon be upgraded and the stock would be replenished. There were no plans to close those two libraries or to increase charges.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- 1) Note the report and pass the comments to the Corporate Performance and Resources O&S Panel;
- 2) Recommend that no cuts or closures of libraries should take place; and
- 3) Recommend to build on use of volunteers for libraries.

## **POLICY AND PARTNERSHIPS SERVICE ACTION PLAN**

David Trethewey introduced the report.

The Panel asked the following questions and made the following comments:

Councillor Symonds said that the Community Safety had been a success in Bath and North East Somerset area. He also said that the Anti Social Behaviour team had been a real leap forward and that he was glad that there were no severe cuts for this service.

Updated version – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

The Chair agreed with the comments from Councillor Symonds. She also said that the Council would want an increase in volunteering and asked how we would be able to co-ordinate it.

David Trethewey replied that the part of the solution was to use more intelligently the resources that we already have and also listen to what the community asks for.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and to pass the comments to the Corporate Performance and Resources O&S Panel.

## **Enterprise and Economic Development – 25th January 2011**

### **DEVELOPMENT & MAJOR PROJECTS - SERVICE ACTION PLAN**

David Redgewell, South West Transport Network addressed the Panel. He asked if the access roads for the Bath Western Riverside project had provision for buses and cycles.

The Divisional Director for Project Management replied that a joint procurement exercise had now been completed with the developer Crest Nicholson and that the Homes and Community Association (HCA) had agreed to make an initial contribution to the infrastructure costs. He added that the procurement exercise included approving access roads up to and including Victoria Bridge.

The Divisional Director for Planning and Transport added that Mr. Redgewell may wish to view the Section 106 agreement that was signed in accordance with the decision of the Development Control Committee as that would have the answer to his question.

The Divisional Director for Project Management introduced the Service Action Plan to the Panel. He informed them that the Directorate had been asked to achieve their proposed stretch target of £250,000.

He added that the Directorate had organised its future workload into ten categories in order to meet the high level objectives set out at the beginning of the Service Plan. The Directorate is also in the process of developing an investment prospectus alongside some of its regular activities of Project & Programme Management, work within the Schools Programme, Keynsham Town Regeneration and the Bath Transport Package.

Councillor Nigel Roberts commented that he was still unsure that the current process for debating Service Action Plans was the right one and that he felt for the officers that had to complete the vast amount of forms. He added that he would not wish to see the remaining staff unduly stressed in attempting to carry out too many tasks.

Councillor Colin Darracott commented that he was satisfied in the Directorates ability to produce what they have set out within their plan. He added that he would have liked a more explicit narrative to accompany the document and that the Council's access to capital must be addressed and be flexible.

Councillor Cherry Beath wished to congratulate the Directorate for their work on the Treasure and Transform exhibition.

Councillor Colin Darracott commented that the Council still required modern workspaces as it should not be losing its flagship businesses to other local areas. He also called upon the Council to not be shy in using its own property portfolio to retain businesses.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to approve the Development & Major Projects - Service Action Plan as printed.

## **PLANNING & TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT - SERVICE ACTION PLAN**

David Redgewell, South West Transport Network addressed the Panel.

**Electrification Gains:** The proposed electrification of the SW Main Railway line would be key to enabling the Greater Bristol Metro improvements taking place. This will include new stations at Saltford, Corsham and Wootton Bassett, plus rolling stock and capacity improvements across the entire travel to work area - which most importantly includes parts of the adjacent counties of Somerset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. It is for this reason that it is imperative that all LTP3 and Strategy Documents across the wider Greater Bristol area are synchronised and all make provision for such improvements to take place in the period to 2026.

**Balance of Commuter Flows:** In this connection, we would remind Members that the passenger flows tend to be at or near equilibrium. The long held view in the Wiltshire authority that increased employment provision would cut out commuting has not been born out in practice.

**The Bath Package; Transport Hub: Showcase Bus Route; BRT;** The new, but incomplete, transport interchange (Bus Station unheated; doors malfunctioning: lifts not in place: extension unbuilt) will have, radiating from the Interchange, nine showcase bus routes across the city, low floor, including real time information, bus lanes and new waiting shelters, eventually! This was the nub of the bid, along with a rapid transit route, envisaged with modern clean-fuel, hybrid vehicles such as used in French cities or Docklands light railway to serve the regeneration site of Western Riverside. (It is our view that vehicles suitable for the Showcase Bus Routes would not be the type required for a modern BRT system).

Funding Unclaimed : Money was granted by DfT to purchase electric hybrid vehicles (nine double decker buses, eight for Ratala PLC and one for Banes). We are concerned that the funding for these vehicles has not been claimed. Therefore, any review of the rapid transit link from Bathford to Newbridge, including looking at new technologies and different routing, will be difficult to sustain. Arguments for clean fuel vehicles, ultralight rail, electric buses, trolley buses, etc. would be scuppered if funding offered is not claimed in time (March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011).

Newbridge Interchange; For both bus and rail access (as first recommended by Avon CC) together with an evaluation of Saltford Station and re-evaluation of the route of the Rapid Transit system along the Lower Bristol Road from Newbridge to Windsor Bridge. The scheme must serve and thread through the regeneration zone of Western Riverside from Southern and Northern Quay, ending at Bath Spa Interchange.

Rail as Economic Driver: Rail has always been the spine of the public transport network in the Greater Bristol Travel to Work Area. However, a glance at the "pteg" website and their Report "Rail in the City Regions" provides evidence of the enormous increase in the percentage of commuter travel which can result from an electrification of a line - 75% of daily commuter traffic. Just imagine the percentage of commuters and car traffic reductions which could result from the Greater Bristol Metro electrification across our City Region.

The Divisional Director of Planning and Transport introduced the Service Action Plan to the Panel. He reminded them that the Directorate had made considerable reductions last year due to the recession, this included a 20% reduction in staff. This reduction coincided with a reduction in work volume, however this has now increased and an assessment will need to be made as to whether this is to continue.

He added that the Transport team have experienced in year cuts following decisions made by the new Government and that therefore the Capital Programme has been greatly affected.

He spoke of the extensive planning legislation changes that were due and how the Government was now leaning towards favouring developers in the proposed changes.

He thanked the Members for their debate on the Core Strategy at Full Council and spoke of the need to maintain its current momentum.

Councillor Peter Edwards commented that he had been made aware of a proposal to reduce the 376 bus service to Bristol and asked how this was possible if one of the Council's Priorities is to 'Improve Transport and the Public Realm'.

Updated version – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

Councillor Charles Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Service Delivery replied that the reduction in that particular service had been initiated by Somerset County Council. He added that both Councils were in talks to find a way forward.

Councillor Nigel Roberts proposed that the Council utilises its own vehicle fleet.

Councillor Charles Gerrish replied that he was prepared to look at that possibility.

Councillor Colin Darracott commented that the preparation of the Core Strategy and its supporting planning documents was now of paramount importance. He asked if the Council had a tendency to over engineer its transport schemes on occasions

The Divisional Director of Planning and Transport replied that safety audits have to be carried out on all transport schemes.

Councillor Cherry Beath asked if the Council still had funding available to purchase an electric hybrid vehicle following funding from the Department for Transport.

The Divisional Director of Planning and Transport replied that he would need to clarify the detail of the allocation and offered to respond in writing to the Panel.

The Chairman requested it to be an open response that could be published alongside the minutes of this meeting.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to approve the Planning and Transport Development - Service Action Plan as printed.

## **TOURISM, LEISURE & CULTURE - SERVICE ACTION PLAN**

The Divisional Director for Tourism, Leisure & Culture introduced the Service Action Plan to the Panel. He explained to them how the Plan would help the Directorate improve its 'Business as usual' activities. These include the following:

- Deliver the operational plan and the development programme for Heritage Services.
- Deliver the operational plan for the Sport & Active Lifestyles Team.
- Deliver the operational plan and the development programme for the Library Service.

- Create the environment in which international and domestic film companies choose Bath and the surrounding areas for TV Dramas and Feature Films.
- Ensure the cultural, creative and performing arts are fostered in the 'not for profit' and 'voluntary' sector. Ensure events and public art projects are developed alongside Future Bath Plus.
- Secure the optimum commercial benefit for local business from the effective promotion of the Tourism & Retail potential of Bath and North East Somerset.

He asked that the Panel look at the proposals within the Plan in the context of what the Property and Transport directorates have proposed as these underpin the aspirations of the Tourism, Leisure & Culture directorate.

The Chairman asked what he felt could be done to improve the first view of the City to visitors.

The Divisional Director for Tourism, Leisure & Culture replied that there is a proposal to have more street staff available to welcome visitors to the City. The Council and the Business Improvement District (BID) must work together on having the right people on the ground.

The Chairman asked if the volunteers working within the library service would be able to gain a qualification from their time in the post.

The Divisional Director for Tourism, Leisure & Culture replied that they working towards that, but for now the roles were mainly about retraining people prior to returning to work and having an interaction with the public.

Councillor Peter Edwards asked if services such as Kindle are having or will have an adverse effect on our library service.

The Divisional Director for Tourism, Leisure & Culture replied that it simply means the way the service is provided changes. The Council currently has 3,000 books available to download for free. Councillor Cherry Beath commented that she was pleased to see the library service moving with the times.

Councillor Colin Darracott wished to congratulate the Directorate on how the plan had been written.

The Chairman reminded the Panel that they still had an open invitation to visit and be given a tour of the Roman Baths.

The Divisional Director for Tourism, Leisure & Culture replied that either he or a colleague would gladly take them on the tour.

Updated version – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

The Chairman asked for a date for the tour to be arranged following consultation with all Panel members.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to approve the Tourism, Leisure & Culture - Service Action Plan as printed.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - SERVICE ACTION PLAN**

The Divisional Director for Environmental Services introduced the Service Action Plan to the Panel. He explained to them that the Plan had already been debated by the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel and he wished to highlight the services and connections between his Directorate and those of Planning & Transport Development and Tourism, Culture and Leisure.

He said that the intention of the Directorate was to achieve its savings by working smarter and better procurement whilst maintaining frontline services.

Some of the key objectives for the Directorate are as follows:

The work of Environmental Services directly supports the Council's vision by making Bath & North East Somerset:

- **Cleaner** through delivering cleansing and waste and recycling services
- **Enjoyable and pleasurable** through delivering attractive Parks and Public Spaces, providing access to the countryside and by controlling noise and nuisance
- **Fairer** through delivering Trading Standards services
- **Better connected** through providing and maintaining highways, public rights of way and transport
- **Safer** through carrying out Health & Safety inspections, dealing with contaminated land, providing street lighting and through community liaison work, event safety, product safety, food safety and unintentional injury reduction

He added that income is well generated within the service and that the intention was to improve on that through further enforcement.

The Chairman asked how the revised enforcement activity will be delivered.



Updated version – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

The Divisional Director for Environmental Services replied that they had already consulted informally with the City Centre Environment Group on the proposals for having a permit for the use of 'A' boards on the public highway.

The Chairman commented that any enforcement should be acted upon an almost zero tolerance level.

The Divisional Director for Environmental Services agreed.

Councillor Cherry Beath wished to congratulate the team responsible for keeping the main traffic routes open during the recent snow and ice. She also asked if the food waste collections had been as successful as they had hoped for and when flats could begin to use the service.

The Divisional Director for Environmental Services replied that they were very pleased with how the service was running so far and that the plan was to incorporate flats into the service over the summer of 2011.

Councillor Colin Darracott wished to congratulate the Directorate on their work as they had suffered quite a lot financially in recent years.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to approve the Environmental Services - Service Action Plan as printed.

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## **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

### **CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

Monday, 31st January, 2011

**Present:-** Councillors David Dixon (Chair), Rob Appleyard, Colin Barrett, Victor Clarke, Ian Gilchrist and Barry Macrae

**Also in attendance:** Andrew Pate (Strategic Director - Resources) and Michaela Gay (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

Councillor Malcolm Hanney – Cabinet Member for Resources

#### **56 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **57 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

#### **58 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies were received from Councillor Cray.

#### **59 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Councillor Hanney declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as Chairman of the Primary Care Trust (PCT).

#### **60 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

There was none.

#### **61 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING**

Councillor John Bull made a statement on the budget proposals. The statement was taken under item 8 on the agenda.

#### **62 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 17TH JANUARY 2011**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **63 MEDIUM TERM SERVICE AND RESOURCE PLANNING 2011/12-2013/14 AND BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2011/12**

The Chair invited Councillor John Bull to make his statement to the Panel. Councillor Bull set out his suggestion that “*part of the headroom sums of £944k and £336k as referred to in the budget papers be used to restore three of the proposed cuts in the children and young persons service as follows:*”

- *‘Shout out’ advocacy service run by ‘Off the Record’ - £14,000*
- *Bath Contact Centre - £8,000*
- *£5k cut in the children’s society budget” - £5,000*

The Chair thanked Councillor Bull and informed him that this suggestion was noted by the panel and would be forwarded to the Cabinet for their consideration.

Andrew Pate – Strategic Director Resources and Support Services introduced the report. He updated the panel on the national financial settlement from the government which was almost unchanged, being £16,000 more than the provisional settlement. The Director explained that the value of several specific government grants were still unknown which is why there was a contingency provision within the headroom amount. He explained that the key action for the Panel at this meeting was to make recommendations to the Cabinet that meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011.

Councillor Malcolm Hanney – Cabinet Member for Resources thanked all officers involved in the budget process. He explained that the scale of cuts in government grants had been a lot to absorb and the authority had largely delivered through efficiency savings. He explained that this authority was in a relatively good position as a result of a lot of effort. Councillor Hanney commented on the suggestion by Councillor Bull as set out above, he explained that some funds had been put aside for children’s services and £336k was intended to help pump priming of community development - disadvantaged communities, regeneration and localism. He explained that in total £1.9m was going into community empowerment and that no decisions had been made in relation to the Local Strategic Partnership reward money included in this total of £1.3m. He explained that he could not make any promises today not knowing the full position on grants and all suggestions would be considered as part of the budget process.

The Panel asked the following questions and made the following points:

Councillor Dixon thanked officers that the budget had been easy to understand.

In response to a question from Councillor Macrae on the Council Tax grant, Councillor Hanney explained that the grant was built into the budget for the next four years but that it could be withdrawn after that.

Councillor Gilchrist asked about feedback in response to community consultation on the budget. The Strategic Director explained that along with a budget fair and meetings with residents associations plus local business, the Council website had also been used. He explained that the responses were generally positive although there were some responses on the website that

seemed to relate to people being directly affected. He explained that there was nothing that indicated the need to change direction.

Councillor Macrae asked if the Director was confident that in total all departments would remain within cash limits and was no overspend carried forward from previous years. The Strategic Director explained that there was still some time to go before the end of the year and some extra costs due to the severe winter but reported that overall he was confident of a net under spend although this was not guaranteed.

Councillor Macrae asked if any alternative budget proposals would have to go through the Section 151 officer. The Strategic Director explained there was guidance in the report on this and confirmed that the Section 151 officer would need to look at any proposed changes so that he could report to Cabinet on the viability of the proposals.

Councillor Dixon referred to the earmarked reserves and asked why the figures jumped around over the coming years. The Strategic Director explained that reserves would be used to fund the change programme and any severance costs. He further explained that those redundancy and early retirement costs would generally be picked up through 50% use of reserves and 50% from individual services, he explained that this was a medium term approach to financing severance costs. Councillor Hanney added that there would be further grant cuts and efficiency savings which get harder to deliver and that there would also be extra pressures from changes in Health Care and Academies. He explained that now was the time to plan for these changes.

Councillor Appleyard asked how much of the affordable housing reserve was going into Western Riverside and what was the situation with schemes outside of Bath. The Strategic Director explained that a substantial amount was going towards Western Riverside and that for schemes outside of Bath, provision for affordable housing would have to come from specific individual developments.

Councillor Dixon asked some questions relating to the budget and how it reflected the Corporate Priorities. He asked about the Leisure Centre capital funding; the top up in Highways Maintenance funding and also asked when there would be a Corporate Plan refresh. The Strategic Director explained that it was more appropriate that the Corporate Plan be refreshed shortly after the elections rather than shortly before. He addressed the other points, he explained that investment in the Leisure Centre was associated with growth and economic prosperity, the city centre and the future of Bath Rugby. He further explained that the top up in Highways funding was due to the effects of the harsh weather. Councillor Hanney added that the Highways increase was about avoiding future costs. He explained that the Leisure Centre money was towards the overall costs, other contributions were expected.

Councillor Dixon asked if the Aquaterra contract come up for renewal soon. Councillor Hanney responded that discussions were taking place.

Councillor Appleyard asked about the extra £3m on highways in 2010/11, he asked if there was actually an increased level of activity or just a longer waiting list. Councillor Hanney stated that he was clear that the work was being done and the objective set out at the beginning of the year would be achieved. He said he understood that officers may wish they had more resources but that this had to be balanced against other priorities. He stated that he would report back regarding the increased activity levels.

Councillor Appleyard asked why this authority had a poor record on affordable housing. Councillor Hanney stated that he was not sure that this was the case and stated that the authority would like to be creating more affordable housing.

Councillor Gilchrist stated that he was pleased that Rossiter Road scheme allocations were unchanged and asked about the Council priority on climate change and its place in the budget. The Strategic Director pointed to the figure in the budget relating to the carbon levy (approx £300k), he explained that he would be working with services to avoid this levy. Councillor Hanney further explained that the Council continued in its ongoing commitment to recycling and collecting food waste as well as reducing the carbon impact of its offices.

Councillor Clarke asked if the reserves were ring fenced and whether they had adversely impacted on the Government settlement. The Strategic Director explained that reserves are not taken into account as a reason for reducing the government grant. Government statements are to the effect that Councils should be using their reserves to pay severance costs.

Councillor Barrett asked about a re-evaluation of properties. The Strategic Director explained that at a national level changes were being discussed in relation to local retention of business rates and there was a new homes bonus. Councillor Hanney explained that there was no confirmation of the amount of new homes bonus but the Council may wish to consider using some of it towards affordable housing in the future.

Councillor Appleyard asked if there had been a reduction in grants given to the Arts as an example. Councillor Hanney explained that there were few grants left as it was now mostly Service Level Agreements. He explained that he was generally looking for efficiencies in SLA's and those not delivering outcomes were being stopped.

Councillor Dixon made some comments in response to the comments that had been circulated to the Panel from the other Overview and Scrutiny Panels in relation to their Service Action Plans:

- Regarding Childrens Services Service Action Plan, he referred to the suggestion made by Councillor John Bull (details above and in the resolution to this minute);
- Regarding Adult Care and Housing Service Action Plan, he referred to the Healthier Communities and Older People OS Panel's view that "...it would be wrong to lose Community Learning as a valuable service that

would fit well within the Big Society idea and that the Council should look into other ways to keep that service running”. Councillor Dixon asked that Councillor Hanney and Councillor Pritchard – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Housing discuss this.

- Regarding Tourism, Leisure and Culture Service Action Plan, he referred to the Safer, Stronger Communities Panel request that there be no cuts or closures of libraries. Councillor Dixon asked that this be taken into account, especially considering the restructuring taking place in the library service.

Councillor Hanney said he would take away the comments on the Community Learning issue. He commented that in terms of smaller libraries, an alternative to closure can be some use of volunteers. He added that any changes would follow Trade Union consultation and the usual process.

Councillor Macrae stated that he was disappointed with the comments from other panels as they were supposed to propose alternatives. Councillor Dixon said he disagreed and that when you read the comments, most of the budget proposals are accepted by Panels, they have only raised a few concerns. He felt that the OS Panels had done a good job.

The Strategic Director noted the point made by Councillor Appleyard regarding licensing of street parties for the Royal Wedding.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the draft medium term financial plan, and revenue and capital budgets for the 2011/12 financial year and proposal for a Council Tax level for 2011/12 and ask the Cabinet to note the comments of the Panel as shown above; and
2. Ask the Cabinet to consider the comments of the other Overview and Scrutiny Panels; along with Councillor Bull’s suggestion *‘That part of the headroom sums of £944k and £336k as referred to in the budget papers be used to restore three of the proposed cuts in the children and young persons service as follows:*
  - *‘Shout out’ advocacy service run by ‘Off the Record - £14k*
  - *Bath Contact Centre - £8k*
  - *Children’s society budget’ - £5k*

The meeting ended at 7.05 pm

Chair(person) .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....





Cabinet Meeting Resolution

Executive  
Forward Plan  
Reference

**E2130**

**Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring, Cash Limits and Virements - April 2010 to November 2010**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	2-Feb-11
<b>The Issue</b>	<i>This report presents the second monitoring information for the Authority as a whole for the financial year 2010/11 to the end of December 2010. The report also includes a number of budget transfer requests for both revenue and capital that require Cabinet agreement or are reported for information purposes as prescribed by the Budget Management Scheme</i>
<b>The decision</b>	<p>On a motion from Councillor Malcolm Hanney, seconded by Councillor Charles Gerrish, it was RESOLVED (unanimously):</p> <p>(1) To ASK Strategic Directors to continue to work towards managing within budget in the current year for their respective service areas, and to manage below budget where possible by not committing unnecessary expenditure, through tight budgetary control.</p> <p>(2) To NOTE this year's revenue budget position;</p> <p>(3) To NOTE the capital expenditure position for the Council in the financial year to the end of December and the year end projections;</p> <p>(4) To AGREE the proposed revenue virements;</p> <p>(5) To NOTE the changes in the capital programme;</p> <p>(6) To APPROVE the proposed additions to the 2010/11 Capital Programme.</p>
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	The report is presented as part of the reporting of financial management and budgetary control required by the Council
<b>Other options considered</b>	None
<b>The Decision is subject to Call-In within 5 working days of publication of the decision</b>	

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Cabinet Meeting Resolution

Executive  
Forward Plan  
Reference

**E2223**

**Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual  
Investment Strategy 2011/12**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	2-Feb-11
<b>The Issue</b>	<i>The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to 'have regard to' the Prudential Code and to set Prudential Indicators to ensure the Council's capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Act requires the Council to set out its treasury strategy for borrowing and an Annual Investment Strategy; this sets out the Council's policies for managing its investments.</i>
<b>The decision</b>	On a motion from Councillor Malcolm Hanney, seconded by Councillor Charles Gerrish, it was RESOLVED (unanimously): (1) To RECOMMEND the actions proposed within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement to February Council for approval; (2) To RECOMMEND the borrowing and debt rescheduling strategy to February Council for approval; (3) To RECOMMEND the Investment Strategy to February Council for approval; (4) To RECOMMEND the proposed changes to the authorised lending lists to February Council for approval; (5) To NOTE the Prudential Indicators and delegate authority for updating the indicators prior to approval at Full Council on 16th February 2010 to the Divisional Director - Finance and Cabinet Member for Resources, in light of any changes to the recommended budget.
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	Report is a statutory requirement
<b>Other options considered</b>	None
<b>The Decision is subject to Call-In within 5 working days of publication of the decision</b>	

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Proposed Base Revenue Budget 2011/12 Cashlimits by Cabinet Portfolio

CABINET PORTFOLIO	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Service	Current 2010/11 Cashlimits		2011/12 Base Budget	2011/12 MTS&RP Savings	2011/12 MTS&RP Growth	2011/12 Technical Grant Adjustments	Total 2011/12 Budget changes	Indicative 2011/12 Cashlimits
			£'000	£'000						
		Transport Design & Projects	70	(70)	70	(70)	100	(75)	(45)	25
		Transportation Planning (Including Public Transport)	5,260	(261)	5,260	(261)	146	1,171	1,056	6,316
		Park & Ride	(1,036)		(1,036)		23		23	(1,013)
		Planning Services	3,001	(288)	3,001	(288)	104	(23)	(207)	2,794
		Building Control & Land Charges	2	(18)	2	(18)	65		47	49
		Highways - Network Maintenance	7,143	(258)	6,643	(258)	177		(81)	6,561
		Highways - Transport & Fleet Management	(120)	(55)	(120)	(55)	115		60	(60)
		Customer Service - Overheads	2,173		2,173		10		10	2,183
		Car Parking (excluding Park & Ride)	(6,348)	(1,114)	(6,348)	(1,114)	44		(1,070)	(7,418)
		Waste	10,750	(400)	10,350	(631)	983		352	10,702
		Public Protection	1,177	(99)	1,177	(99)	13	44	(42)	1,135
		Neighbourhood Services	5,139	(316)	5,139	(316)	244		(72)	5,067
		Libraries & Information	2,523	(91)	2,523	(91)	40		(51)	2,472
		Arts	711	(35)	611	(35)	15		(20)	591
		Tourism & Destination Management	1,198	(249)	1,198	(249)	41		(208)	990
		Heritage including Archives	(3,305)	(238)	(3,305)	(238)			(238)	(3,543)
		Sports & Active Leisure	942	(6)	942	(6)	82		76	1,018
		Customer Access	1,904		1,904		12		12	1,916
		<b>PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>31,185</b>	<b>(3,729)</b>	<b>30,185</b>	<b>(3,729)</b>	<b>2,213</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>(399)</b>	<b>29,786</b>
		Children, Young People & Families	12,615	(20)	12,595	(20)	350	(15)	335	12,930
		Learning Inclusion	2,855	(107)	2,748	(107)		(610)	(937)	1,811
		Health, Commissioning & Planning	(104,544)	(847)	(105,391)	(847)	107	(1,442)	(2,449)	(107,840)
		Schools Budget	115,237	(958)	114,279	(958)				114,279
		<b>PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>26,164</b>	<b>(1,932)</b>	<b>24,231</b>	<b>(1,441)</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>(2,067)</b>	<b>(3,051)</b>	<b>21,180</b>
		Adult Services	51,520	(2,109)	49,411	(2,896)	1,998	26	(872)	48,539
		Housing	2,413		2,413	(120)	16	(1)	(105)	2,308
		Community Learning	127		127	(127)				
		Drug Action Team	598	(2)	598	(2)	2			598
		Employment Development	235	(83)	235	(83)	2		(81)	154
		<b>PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>54,892</b>	<b>(2,109)</b>	<b>52,783</b>	<b>(3,228)</b>	<b>2,018</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>(1,165)</b>	<b>51,598</b>

Proposed Base Revenue Budget 2011/12 Cashlimits by Cabinet Portfolio

CABINET PORTFOLIO	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Service	Current 2010/11 Cashlimits		2011/12 Base Budget	2011/12 MTS&RP Savings	2011/12 MTS&RP Growth	2011/12 Technical Grant Adjustments	Total 2011/12 Budget changes	Indicative 2011/12 Cashlimits
			£'000	£'000						
		Finance	1,401		1,401	(180)	36		(144)	1,256
		Support Services Change Programme	252		252	(95)	29		(66)	186
		Revenues & Benefits	1,110		1,110	(340)	58		(282)	827
		Transformation Service	767		767	(32)	3		(29)	737
		Council's Retained ICT Budgets	(1,069)		(1,069)	(215)	64		(151)	(1,220)
		Audit, Risk & Information Service	1,225		1,086	(70)	8		(62)	1,024
		Property Services	1,006	(139)	1,006	(448)	10		(438)	568
		Corporate Estate Including R&M	7,017	(138)	6,879	(99)	31		31	6,910
		Commercial Estate	(12,731)		(12,731)	(99)			(99)	(12,830)
		Traded Services	54		54	(7)	7			54
		Policy & Partnerships	2,289	(30)	2,259	(226)	17	(155)	(364)	1,895
		Performance Development	867		867	(151)	5		(146)	721
		Human Resources	967		967	(94)	8		(86)	881
		Chief Executive	444		444		2		2	446
		Communications & Marketing	551		551	(115)	4		(111)	440
		Council Solicitor & Democratic Services	2,451	(40)	2,411	(365)	27		(338)	2,073
		Hsg / Council Tax Benefits Subsidy	355		355					355
		Capital Financing / Interest	5,217	867	6,084		(21)		(21)	6,063
		Unfunded Pensions	1,709		1,709					1,709
		Other Miscellaneous Budgets	4,097	438	4,535		(1,818)	(49)	(1,867)	2,667
		Magistrates	22		22					22
		Coroners	351		351		11		11	362
		Environment Agency	205		205					205
		Corporately Held Social Care Funding					1,600		1,600	1,600
		One-off Headroom Allocations					591		591	591
		<b>PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>18,555</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>19,513</b>	<b>(2,438)</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>(204)</b>	<b>(1,971)</b>	<b>17,542</b>
		Major Projects Support	525		525	(175)	210		35	560
		Development & Regeneration	1,410	(50)	1,360	(405)	120		(285)	1,075
		<b>PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>1,935</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>1,885</b>	<b>(580)</b>	<b>330</b>		<b>(250)</b>	<b>1,635</b>
		<b>NET BUDGET</b>	<b>132,730</b>	<b>(4,133)</b>	<b>128,597</b>	<b>(11,416)</b>	<b>5,690</b>	<b>(1,129)</b>	<b>(6,855)</b>	<b>121,742</b>

Proposed Base Revenue Budget 2011/12 Cashlimits by Cabinet Portfolio

CABINET PORTFOLIO	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Service	Current 2010/11 Cashlimits £'000	Removal of One-offs (includes one-off virements in 2010/11) £'000	2011/12 Base Budget £'000	2011/12 MTS&RP Savings £'000	2011/12 MTS&RP Growth £'000	2011/12 Technical Grant Adjustments £'000	Total 2011/12 Budget changes £'000	Indicative 2011/12 Cashlimits £'000
		<b>Sources of Funding (£)</b>								
		Council Tax	76,777		76,777				650	77,427
		Revenue Support Grant	5,270		5,270				1,964	43,523
		Redistributed Business Rates (NNDRF)	36,289		36,289				591	591
		Collection Fund Deficit (-) or Surplus (+)	846	(846)					1,920	1,920
		Council Tax Freeze Grant							(1,719)	(1,719)
		Balances / Exceptional Risk Reserve	3,287	(3,287)					(10,261)	
		Area Based Grant	10,261		10,261					
		<b>Total</b>	<b>132,730</b>	<b>(4,133)</b>	<b>128,597</b>				<b>(6,855)</b>	<b>121,742</b>
		<b>Council Tax - Calculation</b>								
		Council Tax Debit £'000	76,777							77,427
		Tax Base (No. of Band D equivalent properties)	63,882.43							64,422.90
		Band D Charge £	£1,201.85							£1,201.85
		%age Increase	2.50%							0.00%

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Cabinet Meeting Resolution

Executive  
Forward Plan  
Reference

**E2229**

**Financial Plan 2011/12-2013/14, Budget & Council Tax  
2011/12**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	2-Feb-11
<b>The Issue</b>	<i>To agree and set the Council's medium term financial planning approach and recommend the 2011/12 Council Tax and Budget to the Council</i>
<b>The decision</b>	<p>On a motion from Councillor Malcolm Hanney, seconded by Councillor Francine Haeberling, it was RESOLVED (unanimously): To RECOMMEND to Council:</p> <p>(1) That the Council approve:</p> <p>(a) The General Fund net revenue budget for 2011/12 of £121.742m with no increase in Council Tax.</p> <p>(b) That no Special Expenses be charged other than Town and Parish Council precepts for 2011/12.</p> <p>(c) The adequacy of reserves at Appendix 1 Table 9 with a risk-assessed level of £10.5m.</p> <p>(d) The individual service cash limits proposed for 2011/12.</p> <p>(e) That the specific arrangements for the governance and release of corporate headroom (which includes any amounts for which the purpose has not been specified in the budget report in relation to the transfers to revenue budget contingency, the ongoing headroom allocations and the one off headroom allocations in Appendix 1) be delegated to the Council's Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Chief Executive together with the chair of the CPR Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>(2) That the Council include the precepts set and approved by other bodies including the Local Precepts of Town Councils, Parish Councils and the Charter Trustees of the City of Bath, and those of the Fire and Police Authorities in its Council Tax setting.</p> <p>(3) That the Council acknowledges the Section 151 officer's report on the robustness of the proposed budget and the adequacy of the Council's reserves and approves the conditions upon which the recommendations are made.</p> <p>(4) That in relation to the capital budget the Council:</p> <p>(a) Approves a capital programme of £34.108m for 2011/12 and notes indicative items shown in italics for 2011/12 and the programme for 2012/13 to 2015/16 including the planned sources of funding;</p> <p>(b) Approves the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy;</p> <p>(c) Approves the Capital Prudential Indicators.</p> <p>(5) That the Council notes the O&amp;S review of Medium Term Service and Resource Plans and 2011/12 Service Action Plans and instructs the relevant officers to finalise and publish their Medium Term Service and Resource Plans and Service Action Plans by end of March 2011, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and in light of feedback from the O&amp;S reviews, and in line with the approved cash limits.</p>

# Cabinet Meeting Resolution

**Executive  
Forward Plan  
Reference**

**E2229**

	<p>(6) To AUTHORISE the Divisional Director – Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, to make any necessary presentational improvements to the draft budget proposal prior to submission to Council.</p>
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	<p>The rationale is contained in the supporting paper to this report. The Council's Section 151 Officer is the Divisional Director - Finance. This report reflects information already presented to Overview and Scrutiny by the Director. As Section 151 Officer his duties include ensuring a prudent and balanced budget is set on time which properly takes into account the financial constraints and risks facing the Council.</p>
<b>Other options considered</b>	<p>The supporting report and appendices also contain the other options considered in making the recommendations</p>
<p><b>The Decision is subject to Call-In within 5 working days of publication of the decision</b></p>	