

Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel, 6th February 2012 – Budget Report Comments

Children's Services (page 1 or Annex 5)

- The Panel noted the absence of detailed financial plans for 2013/14 onwards in this area. The Panel noted the uncertainties associated with the fundamental review of the LEA role in response to the creation of Academies and the new system of Local Government finance

Adult Social Care and Housing, People and Communities – Saving Items (page 3 of Annex 5).

- The Panel had serious concerns about the proposed savings in the unit cost of registered residential care for adults with learning difficulties;
- The Panel were concerned that the Equalities Impact Assessment did not look at the global effect of the proposed savings on adults with learning difficulties.
- The Panel noted that the level of savings would be clarified and the robustness of the proposal would be reviewed. They further noted that there would be close monitoring arrangements in this area.
- The Panel had some concerns about savings in 'Personal Budgets' as they felt this would remove choice.

Increase in Heritage net profit

- The Panel had some reservations over the income trends in this area and asked if they were over optimistic. The Panel noted that officers would check the figures in the latest monitoring report and be sure that the budget reflected any downward trends.

Highways – Drainage and Gully Cleansing (page 17 of Annex 5)

- The Panel had some concerns regarding cuts to this service as they felt that the effects on road maintenance would be likely to offset any saving if not well managed and prioritised.

Waste Services – Reduce hours at Recycling Centres (page 18 of Annex 5)

- The Panel were concerned about a reduction in hours to this service and suggested that the centres opened later and closed later on Sundays.

End Mobile Library Service (page 20 of Annex 5)

- The Panel asked officers to review the figures on this and obtain more clarity from the department as different figures had been referred to elsewhere. The clarity of the Equalities Impact Assessment on this service was noted.

Reduce spend on leisure activity and local leisure events (page18 or Annex 5)

- The Panel noted that more work was needed on the Equalities Impact Assessment in this area. There were questions about the balance between activities to create tourism footfall and activities to increase local participation plus a concern about the reference in the service action plan to do with the expected impact of service cuts on people with low incomes.