

## SOCIAL INCLUSION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14<sup>th</sup> December 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Hinkley (Chair); Councillors Abid and M. Hussain.

### 76 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Bullock, Shaw and Skepelhorn.

### 77 BUDGET SCRUTINY (REF: 7.1)

The Head of Resources and Performance (Department of Housing and Community Living) provided a brief overview of the Council's overall budget position and the basis on which the base budget, savings and growth had been identified and summarised.

Following an enquiry from a Member with regard to the efficiency savings, the Head of Resources and Performance reported the Council is expected to achieve 2.5% annually which can be a mixture of cashable and non-cashable. All Departments had been requested to identify these. Efficiency targets had been built in to this year's budget and further targets would be sought for next year.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

### 78 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, PART VA (REF: 8)

**Resolved:** That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as it is likely that if members of the public were present during the items remaining to be considered, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information falling within Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

### 79 BUDGET SCRUTINY (REF: 7.1)

The report set out the officers' proposals for exceptional and unavoidable increase in costs, together with explanatory notes about the options for increasing or reducing the base budgets.

<b>DRAFT SUMMARY OF OFFICER PROPOSALS OF EXCEPTIONAL AND UNAVOIDABLE INCREASE IN COSTS</b>		
<b>Reference</b>	<b>Question/comments by Members</b>	<b>Response/comments by officers</b>
Corp 001G	Why has this been reduced as the base budget shows a predicted profit of £720,000.	As part of budget monitoring, we have identified a budget problem in the current year. It has been transferred also to 2007/8. Profit

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		now assumed to be £220,000 per year. Officers are continuing to work on this area by looking at opportunities for increasing turnover and changes in working practices.
HCL012G	Opportunities for Invest to Save	Should have funding in place for 60 residential placements.  Current year's growth provision would provide additional residential placements for 15 people.
HCL004G	-	Funding level historically quite low. People either in the community who require care or people in acute hospital to help them back into the community.  Statutory service. Below comparator levels with other authorities.
HCL029G	-	Error crept into estimates last year. Meals were formally provided by WRVS funded through Airport dividend and when this transferred, an error was made on the budget entries.
HCL015G	-	Trying to improve standard of care. Private sector would still be cheaper than in-house provision despite the growth.  Increasing demand on nursing and residential placements year on year.  Identified in the medium term plan.  Contained in report on fee structure previously.

<b>DRAFT SUMMARY OF OFFICER PROPOSALS OF EXCEPTIONAL AND UNAVOIDABLE INCREASE IN COSTS</b>		
<b>OFFICER SAVING OPTIONS</b>		
HCL704	What is investment to save £285,000	Will obtain information and provide.
HCL711	-	Cease funding to 12 clubs. Could introduce charges or look for other income. Lower savings in 2007/08 due to half year impact only.
HCL715	-	People would still be under fairer charging assessment. Up to 800 could be affected but it likely to be substantially less because of the way the assessment operates.
HCL718	-	Funding through Airport - Would not deliver savings until 2008/9.
HCL719	-	<p>Many Councils considering this a high risk issue.</p> <p>No confirmation that any other authority will be doing this during 2007/08 although others are known to be considering it.</p> <p>If this saving is not taken (as with others), significant savings will have to be found from within the department or from other departments.</p>
HCL722	-	Transfer of spend in Supporting People thus making savings in the general fund.

**(Note: The meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.)**