

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 24 February 2010
Report for: Decision
Report of: Executive Member for Finance

Report Title

Response to Overview and Scrutiny – Budget 2010/11

Summary

The report contains the Executive's responses to the various issues raised from the recent scrutiny of the draft budget proposals for 2010/11

Recommendation(s)

The report be agreed and referred to Overview and Scrutiny for their consideration.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Ian Duncan
Extension: 4238

Background Papers: Report from Overview and Scrutiny January 2010.

Background

1. Since the Executive agreed its draft budget for financial year 2010/11 on 14 December 2009, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has conducted a review of the proposals during December and January. This culminated in a report to the Executive on 25 January 2010.
2. In accordance with the agreed protocols the Executive has discussed the findings and has completed the attached action plan template in response. On 3 March the Executive Member for Finance and the Director of Finance will discuss the action plan with the Overview and Scrutiny Core Committee.

Financial Impact:	None arising out of this report
Gershon Efficiency Savings:	N/A
Legal Impact:	None arising out of this report.
Human Resources Impact:	N/A
Asset Management Impact:	N/A
E-Government Impact:	N/A
Risk Management Impact:	Risk management was a feature of the Overview & Scrutiny review
Health and Safety Impact:	N/A

Other Options

The report is in accordance with the protocols agreed between the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny.

Consultation

Not applicable.

Reasons for Recommendation

To allow the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the response to their findings and build this into their work programme as appropriate.

Finance Officer Clearance (type in initials).....ID.....

Legal Officer Clearance (type in initials).....

CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE (electronic).....

To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.

ACTIONS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTS

Date: 3 March 2010

Committee: Overview & Scrutiny Core Committee

Report Title: Scrutiny review of the 2010/11 draft service budget

Lead Overview and Scrutiny Member: Cllr Mrs June Reilly

Executive Member Responsible: Cllr Tolhurst

Recommendations ref: A - Transformation & Resources, Economic Growth and Corporate
 B - Highways, Environment and Transportation
 C - Adult Social Care
 D - Community Safety, Culture & Sport, Education and Children’s Social Services

Ref	Recommendation	Agreed (Y/N)	Executive Response to Recommendations	Timescale for Completion	Planned Action in Response to Recommendations	Responsible Executive Member	Review Date
1) Recommendations re: Are the draft service budgets focussed on corporate/service objectives and priorities							
A1.1	Scrutiny will ask for more information about the skills transfer arrangements, and how the Transformation Team will support service transformation	Yes	<p>The resources available to the organisation from within the Transformation Team will exist to help services deliver changes in the way they provide services that they want to see. These resources are ‘whole organisational’ and all services would benefit from this resource.</p> <p>An overall non-cashable benefit to the authority would be the skills transfer arrangements to embed ‘transformational’ skills</p>	Skills Transfer will be ongoing linked to project delivery	Regular updates on the Transformation Programme will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Core Committee.	Alex Williams	September 2010

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			among other staff. For example these will include business modelling, service redesign, change management, activity based costing. With the new People Strategy focus on Always Improving, members consider it vitally important to embed these skills and expertise amongst relevant staff.				
A1.2	Scrutiny wishes to be informed at an appropriate time of the council's plans to further review any non-financial rewards to staff, such as car allowances.	Y	The information will be shared with Scrutiny	Specific time not yet agreed	Liaison between Corporate Director and Scrutiny Office	Cllr Williams	September 2010
C1.1	Scrutiny considers, different communities have different needs and capacity to commission services, and in the interests of fairness recommend that the results of the Timperley pilot on transport provision, including an equality impact assessment, are shared with Scrutiny	Y	This information will be shared with scrutiny	April 2010	Sharing of Information	Cllr Young	May 2010
C1.2	Scrutiny wishes to be kept informed of the consultation plans and implementation of the Mental Health Preventative Strategy	Y	This information will be shared with scrutiny	April 2010	Sharing of Information	Cllr Young	May 2010
C1.3	Scrutiny Councillors recommended that a volunteering and voluntary sector Scrutiny review should be	Y	To be referred to Core Scrutiny Committee	To be determined	N/A	Cllr Mrs J Reilly	To be determined

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	undertaken for Trafford.						
2) Recommendations re:) What is the anticipated impact of the budget decision on performance, service provision							
A2.1	Scrutiny councillors wish to be kept informed of where efficiencies are being found through the Transformation Programme and any impact arising on service delivery.	Yes	The Transformation Programme has identified a number of opportunities to deliver more effective, efficient services, both in front line delivery and back office functions. All efficiencies identified within the programme must be sustainable.	Linked to overall individual project delivery	Regular updates on the Transformation Programme will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Core Committee.	Alex Williams	September 2010
B2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That information for the budget scrutiny process be as up to date as possible and that information be clearly marked as to what financial year it relates to. In addition it was also suggested that historical data be provided to show a directional of travel in terms of performance. That members be provided by the service, via the Scrutiny & Improvement team, with up to date information on the performance of national indicators within PPD. 	part	It is not possible to provide in year updates as the graphs are linked to the overall position of the Council within its 'family' comparison group, however a projected direction of travel can be provided	complete	A projected direction of travel statement has already been provided to Scrutiny	Cllr Cornes/ Cllr Coupe / Cllr Mitchell / Cllr Reilly	
D2.1	The Working Group would like Scrutiny to be kept informed of any improvement actions relating to the	Y	The information will be shared with Scrutiny	October 2010	Update to be provided to Scrutiny	Cllr Holden	October 2010

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	Ofsted recommendations.						
3) Recommendations re: Have anticipated financial and other risks been taken into consideration and will they be effectively managed							
A3.1	Scrutiny would like further reassurance that forecast savings from procurement will be realised and request periodic updates from the Executive.	Y	Procurement savings will be regularly monitored and will be available for sharing with Scrutiny	First report can be made at the end of Q1 i.e. end July 2010	Report to Scrutiny (as part of overall Q1 budget monitor?)	Cllr Tolhurst	August 2010
A3.2	Scrutiny members would like to know further what the Executive's contingency plans are if wage pressures are higher than forecast	Y	Reference is made to this in Annex 11 (Robustness Assessment) of the Budget Report to Council 24 February. If wage costs are higher than assumed there is provision in the minimum level of reserves to meet this cost. However this would only be a temporary solution and permanent savings would have to be identified across all directorates to meet the ongoing cost.	N/A	Position will be monitored throughout the year	Cllr Tolhurst	Ongoing
B3.2	Scrutiny wishes to see examples of the transformation projects that are planned in PPD and how savings will be achieved.	Y	The Directorate will continue to take a commercial and innovative approach to service delivery based on local	2010 - 13	Transformation projects are monitored through the Transformation Project Board on a		

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			<p>needs. Examples of recent projects are listed below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep Clean, • Greenspace and Streetscene Neighbourhood service delivery, Highways invest to save, • Stockport Alliance joint procurement savings • Increase income revenues (sponsorship) • Collaborative working (public protection) <p>As with all other transformation projects, opportunities will be identified, researched and business cases completed</p>		monthly basis. All new projects are reviewed by Transformation, Performance and Resources Steering Group prior to sign off.		
C3.1	Scrutiny requests that the Executive engages with scrutiny at an earlier stage in such consultations as the residential care review.	Y	Directorates continue to liaise over future work programmes	Ongoing	Review of Work Programme	All Executive Members	To be determined
4) Recommendations re: How do budget proposals address/manage public expectations in relation to service delivery							

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A4.2	Scrutiny members should receive further information about fees and charges when available in February	Y	The information has been provided to all Members	Complete		Cllr Tolhurst	
B4.1	That scrutiny is involved in examining and improving the methods by which the public's opinions on their priorities are canvassed, before the 2011/12 budget setting process begins. This will ensure residents are clear on the decisions to which they are influencing and that the budget reflects as accurately as possible, the needs and priorities of its residents.	Y	The Executive would welcome the opportunity to discuss options for public consultation	September	Meeting with Scrutiny	Cllr Williams / Tolhurst	July 2010
B4.2	<p>To better understand how the transformation programme will impact on services provided by PPD, Members requested the following information to be provided to the Scrutiny Team for distribution amongst them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details of all the cross cutting opportunities delivered through the transformation programme and how the risk to these service area , in terms of performance, will be mitigated 		<p>This information was provided after the Scrutiny</p> <p>Procurement; Training; Financial Management; Human Resources; Sickness Management; Insurance; Commissioning; Customer Contact</p>	2010 - 13	Transformation projects are monitored through the Transformation Project Board on a monthly basis. All new projects are reviewed by Transformation, Performance and		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How £58,000 is to be saved from the public protection budget next year; as well as the proposed saving of £25,000, and £117,000 in the following two years. 		<p>Again, as with all other transformation projects, opportunities will be identified, researched and business cases completed.</p> <p>This information was provided after the Scrutiny panel</p> <p>The efficiencies will arise from the AGMA collaborative working project. The collaboration comprises all ten authorities across Greater Manchester. The efficiencies proposed are Trafford's share of the overall efficiencies.</p> <p>Implemented projects Creation of Business Regulation Solutions has been established, a not for profit company. Linking Regulatory services with the business community and provides a vehicle for</p>		Resources Steering Group prior to sign off.		

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			<p>generating income through the provision of training to businesses and regulators.</p> <p>Partnership working with Oldham - Animal Welfare has been place for over a year.</p> <p>Joint Procurement for Public Analyst Services, Dog Warden/ Kennelling</p> <p>Future opportunities Transform the ways in which businesses are visited and assessed for compliance. This will be a catalyst for workforce remodeling and agile working to realise the medium term efficiencies.</p> <p>GMPPP work with Business Regulation Solutions does indicate future opportunities to develop fee paying advice services to businesses and the development of this potential market forms</p>				

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How £250,000 is to be saved from highways, parks and countryside efficiencies; 		<p>a key element of the next stages of the partnership's plans.</p> <p>This information was provided after the Scrutiny panel</p> <p>Challenge cost and use of systems thinking to devise alternative methods of delivery / working e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk analysis approach to patching Procurement savings through supplier chain management Invest to save relating to the Tree population Benchmarking with private sector Systems thinking Rethinking our strategies and structures 				

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping the commercial opportunities of the current service functions and Increased focus on customer engagement from the front line leading to 'getting it right first time' 				
B4.3	That the proposed fees and charges be provided to Overview and Scrutiny Core Committee at the earliest opportunity to give Scrutiny Members the opportunity to inspect them.	Y	Information now provided	Complete			
D4.1	The working group acknowledged the role of culture and sport and asked to be kept informed of changes to fees and charges within the service area and the Leisure Trust	Y	An update will be provided when available	April 10	An update will be provided when available	Cllr Reilly	