

## **Budget and Transformation Panel**

**Thursday 13 January 2011**

### **Present:**

Cllr T Attwood	SDLP
Cllr M Jones	ALL
Cllr J McVeigh	SF
Cllr R Newton	DUP

P McNaney	Chief Executive
J Thompson	Director of Finance and Resources
G Millar	Director of Property and Projects
J McGrillen	Director of Development
R Cregan	Head of Finance and Performance
E Deeny	Head of Corporate Communications

### **1. District Rate 2011/12 - Key Messages**

The Head of Corporate Communications outlined the proposed key messages for the announcement of the district rate. It was agreed that the messages to be discussed at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 21 January should be centred on:

- District rate set below inflation meaning real terms cuts
- VFM and investment in the city
- Support for people and communities.

It was further agreed that the communications plan should cover:

- The striking of the rate
- The announcement of all district council rates
- The issuing of the rates bills for 2011/12.

### **2. Capital Programme**

The Director of Property and Projects outlined for Members the current process for prioritising capital schemes. He explained that with the setting of the rate Members now need to turn their attention to the process for agreeing a capital programme for next year and beyond. All Members agreed that they needed to dedicate time to this issue and it was agreed that the Budget and Transformation Panel would meet three times over the next four weeks or so and that the Director of Property and Projects would prepare briefings for party group leaders to use with their groups, in order to reach agreement on the capital programme.

### **3. Area Budgets**

The Director of Development informed Members that three of the four area meetings with Elected Members to discuss the allocation of the £100,000 in 2010/11 have been held. It was agreed that the proposals emanating from

these meetings should be reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 4 February 2011. It was also agreed that a further report should be brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in relation to the £1,000,000 area budget for 2011/12, and in particular, the guiding principles, evaluation criteria, geographical boundaries and financial split for use of the resources.