

**Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting
15 August 2013**

1. Attendance

Members:

Alderman Gavin Robinson (Chair)
Councillor Mervyn Jones
Councillor John Kyle
Councillor Conor Maskey
Councillor Kate Mullan
Councillor Lee Reynolds

Apologies:

Alderman David Browne
Councillor Maire Hendron
Councillor Jim McVeigh

Officers:

Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Gerry Miller, Director of Property and Projects
Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance
Caroline Wilson, Neighbourhood and Development Manager (for item 6)

Apologies:

Peter McNaney, Chief Executive

2. Quarter 1 Financial Report

The Director of Finance and Resources provided an overview of the quarter 1 financial position and the year end forecast. Given that the forecast outturn was close to budget and that the Council already had commitments to the NI Hospice and the Pipe Bands event, it was agreed that no further reallocations should be considered at this stage.

3. Rate Setting 2014/15

The Director of Finance and Resources summarised the key uncontrollable cost increases which the Council will face in 2014/15 and the financial pressure arising on the rate setting process.

Given this context, it was agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that departments are requested to absorb the inflationary impact on supplies and services and that business cases will be required for any growth proposals.

4. Chief Executives Department / Retirement of Assistant Chief Executive

It was noted that recommendations for the cover of the Town Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive's duties up to the period of the New Council, would be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 23 September 2013.

5. Local Government Reform Update

The Panel noted the draft paper on the arrangements for the recruitment of the Chief Executive of the New Council and agreed that the recommendations should be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 23 September 2013.

6. Leisure Transformation Budget

The Director of Parks and Leisure and the Neighbourhood and Development Manager presented a paper outlining the resources required to support the Leisure Transformation Programme.

It was agreed that that a paper outlining the proposals should be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee with a recommendation that the non-recurring expenditure be funded from the Council's general reserves.

7. Olympia / Windsor Leisure Facility Designs

Councillor Mullan declared an interest in this matter.

The Director of Property and Projects presented the outline design proposals for the project and advised the Panel of the timetable for communication of the design with Elected Members, Staff, Local Community and Local Businesses.

8. Date of Next Meeting

10.00am, Friday 13 September 2013.