

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Assistant Director Democratic Services and the Chairman of the Performance Monitoring Panel

To: Cabinet – 15 January 2013

(Author: Christine Morgan – Member Services Officer)

Subject: Budget Scrutiny

Purpose: To report recommendations made at the joint meeting of the Performance Monitoring Panel and Policy Development Panel with regard to Budget Scrutiny

Recommendation:

That the Cabinet consider the recommendations made at the annual Budget Scrutiny meeting, when agreeing the proposed budget.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Each year, the Performance Monitoring and Policy Development Panels hold a special joint meeting to undertake scrutiny of the Budget. This year, the meeting took place on 4 December 2012, and a copy of the minutes is attached at Appendix A.
- 1.2 The Joint Panel received a presentation from Officers regarding the Budget for 2013/14. The Assistant Director, Finance, provided information on the Revenue Budget, Risks and Sensitivity, the Capital Programme and Reserves. The Business Development Manager completed the presentation with a discussion on efficiencies and suggestions of areas where efficiencies could be found. A copy of the presentation covering these areas is attached at Appendix B.
- 1.3 Following the presentation, Members discussed a number of areas with Officers and these resulted in the following decisions:
 - That the Panel request that the proposed increase in car parking charges, detailed on Pages 16 and 47 of the agenda, not proceed; and
 - That as a matter of priority, the Authority commence consideration of how to deal with future budget shortfalls, in line with the suggestions made by the Business Development Manager (see Appendix B).
- 1.4 Pages 16 and 47 of the agenda for the joint meeting are attached at Appendix C to this report.

2.0 **OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The Cabinet may accept and take forward some, all, or none of the recommendations made at the joint meeting of the Performance Monitoring and Policy Development Panels.

3.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Performance Monitoring and Policy Development Panels, as part of their scrutiny of the budget, have raised the issues detailed in section 1.3 of this report as areas of concern in respect of the Budget for the forthcoming year and for future years.

4.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS AND TIMELINES**

- 4.1 If Cabinet agrees to the first recommendation made by the joint Panel, the decision regarding car park charges would be made in time for the forthcoming budget for 2013/14 being agreed by the Cabinet on 19 February 2013.
- 4.2 If Cabinet agrees to the second recommendation made by the joint Panel, 'Consideration of how to deal with future budget shortfalls, in line with the suggestions made by the Business Development Manager', this should commence as a matter of priority. The benefit of consideration of these matters would be that the Authority could develop ways of dealing with any prospective budget shortfalls in the future.

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 **Carbon Footprint & Environmental Issues**

- 5.1.1 Carbon Footprint and Environmental issues have been considered and in the opinion of the report writer, there are none.

5.2 **Constitution & Legal**

- 5.2.1 Constitution and Legal issues have been considered and in the opinion of the report writer, there are none.

5.3 **Contracts**

- 5.3.1 Contracts issues have been considered and in the opinion of the report writer, there are none.

5.4 **Crime and Disorder**

- 5.4.1 Crime and Disorder issues have been considered and in the opinion of the report writer, there are none.

5.5 Equality and Diversity & Human Rights

5.5.1 Equality and Diversity and Human Rights issues have been considered and in the opinion of the report writer, there are none.

5.6 Financial

5.6.1 Should the Cabinet be minded to agree these recommendations, there could be financial implications in the future that would need to be examined at the time that decisions were taken.

5.7 Risk Management

5.7.1 It is a risk to the Authority if it does not look at ways of managing its finances in the future.

5.8 Staffing

5.8.1 Staffing issues have been considered and in the opinion of the report writer, there are none.

5.9 Stakeholders / Consultation

5.9.1 Stakeholder/Consultation issues have been considered and in the opinion of the report writer, there are none.

6.0 WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

6.1 All could potentially be affected. However, this report will not result in any significant effects and therefore this is not considered to be a key decision.

Background papers:- None

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Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A – Minutes of the special joint meeting of the Performance Monitoring and Policy Development Panels (Budget Scrutiny) held on 4 December 2012

Appendix B – Presentation provided to the meeting held on 4 December 2012

Appendix C – Pages 16 and 47 of the agenda considered at the joint meeting held on 4 December 2012 (regarding Car Parking charges).