

To Executive Board – 4 April 2005

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

### Finance Scrutiny Committee – 26 January 2005

#### **98. CONCESSIONARY BUS FARES SCHEME**

The Committee considered the report (previously circulated and now appended) of the Review Group. Andrew Last, who had acted as consultant to the Review Group gave a presentation on the main points of the report and responded to questions and comments from members of the Committee.

Resolved to RECOMMEND the Executive Board: -

- (1) to ensure that the database of current cardholders is up to date;
- (2) as part of this exercise, to recall existing cards and issue replacement cards;
- (3) to cost the introduction of a “smart card” system;
- (4) to consider the introduction of either:-
  - a free bus fares scheme for all those aged over 60 on an interim basis; or
  - a free scheme for those aged over 70/75 on a permanent basis.

*(The Executive Summary from the report is attached, together with slides from the presentation to the Scrutiny Committee. The report itself is “not for publication”. A copy has also been deposited in the Member’s Room and copies are available to Members on request.)*

#### **99. CONSULTATION BUDGETS 2005/2006 TO 2007/2008\***

The Strategic Director (Finance and Corporate Services) submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved: -

- (1) to RECOMMEND the Executive Board to ensure that steps be taken to responsibility for ensuring that savings are met is allocated to senior management and that a timetable for making savings is prepared;
- (2) to ask that the timetable for ensuring that the savings proposed are made be submitted to the Committee’s March meeting.

### **109. CONSULTATION BUDGETS – 2005/2006 TO 2008/2008\***

The Strategic Director (Finance and Corporate Services) submitted a report (previously circulated).

Resolved:-

- (1) to ask that a note setting out changes made between the budget papers previously circulated to members and the budget papers to be considered by the Executive Board at its meeting on 7th February 2005 be circulated to all Members of Council;
  - (2) to RECOMMEND Executive Board that, in future years, steps be taken to track changes between different versions of budget papers.
- *the above recommendations on the Consultation Budget were reported orally at the meeting on 7 February but are included here in writing for completeness.*

### **114. REVENUES AND BENEFITS MONITORING REPORT**

The Revenues and Benefits Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved: -

- (1) to INFORM the Executive Board that the Committee would wish to be involved in the decision-making process concerning the possible outsourcing of the revenues collection service;
- (2) that reports be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee concerning progress towards reducing the local cost of benefits to below £225,000 and giving a breakdown of the running costs of the service, showing how the budget is divided over the various elements of service delivery and identifying internal recharges.

### **83. LEISURE STRATEGY WHITE PAPER**

Andrew Davies gave a verbal report to the meeting. He said he understood that the content and programming of the White Paper had now changed and that the matter was being dealt with between the portfolio holder and the Leisure and Parks Business Manager. Members said that they were extremely disappointed as leisure issues were such a key part of the Council's budget consultations. They asked that

the portfolio holder and the business manager be invited to attend the next meeting and that the Executive Board be asked to explain how the Leisure Strategy was now being dealt with.

Resolved to ASK the Executive Board for an explanation regarding the progress of the Leisure Strategy, as minuted above.