



Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 15 February 2011
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Council Chamber - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members are asked to consider whether they have personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they are.

Members are reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they are subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

2. BUDGET PROPOSALS

Councillors H Smith, Ann McLachlan and Jerry Williams, have called this special meeting of the committee for the following reasons:

- The failure of this administration to refer any budget savings to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny committees for proper scrutiny;
- The decision taken by Council on December 12th to suspend the relevant part of the Constitution in order to avoid any such scrutiny;
- The lack of any detailed Cabinet reports setting out the details of the budget savings, and their consequences;
- The lack in particular of any explanation of the impact of the loss of over 1300 posts, the restructuring necessary to protect services and the costs of that restructuring.

We, the undersigned members of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, call for a special meeting of this committee to be held before February 21st to investigate:

- Any planned re-structuring of services within the parameter of this committee, as a consequence of budget decisions, including EVRs and Voluntary Severance, with associated restructuring costs.
- What the impact on the public of any changes or reductions to service will be
- The manner and timescale in which proposals are being handled.
- Whether any areas concerned are covered by statutory requirements for consultation and, if so, whether such requirements have been met.
- Whether individual proposals of a similar nature in the past would have been subject to consultation as a matter of best practice, and, if so, whether that practice is being followed now.
- Whether there are any reductions in Specific Grant affecting the areas covered by this Committee and, if so, what particular plans are in place to allow for those reductions.
- What the impact for services will be of any reductions arising from the reduced formula grant, which now includes a number of former specific grants previously ring fenced to support particular services.
- What the impact on services will be of a zero inflation budget, including on contracts, when inflation is set to rise above 4%
- What the revenue impact will be of any reductions in the Merseyside Local Transport Plan and any plans for dealing with this.
- What the revenue impact will be of reductions in any other public sector bodies that link with Council services provided under this committee.
- What the impact of cuts in other public sector bodies could be where the Council has shared services or jointly funded projects
- The direct and indirect impact of cuts on the voluntary and not for profit sector who may currently be commissioned, or grant aided, to provide services.
- Any proposed increases in fees or charges
- Any changes to contracts with outside providers that may affect levels of service or charges for service

Any other matters relevant to the budget setting process at a time when the Council faces a £52million reduction in its budget in one year.

