

# METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

## FINANCE AND BEST VALUE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 JUNE 2006

### REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE / DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

#### CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT - FINANCIAL MONITORING

#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This is one of a series of reports submitted to Members throughout the year, the purpose of which is to highlight the financial performance of the Corporate Services Department during 2006/07. Included in this report is the composition of the departmental budget. Members are asked to note the report.

#### 2. BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/07

- 2.1 Further to the reporting of the Estimates 2006/07 to Cabinet on 20 February and to Council on 1 March 2006, the approved budget for Corporate Services was £6,801,800. The changes from the original Budget Estimates reported are as follows :

	£
Budget presented to Select Committee and submitted to Budget Cabinet (Including £241,000 Service Re-engineering savings and £50,000 reduced Voluntary Organisation Grants)	6,801,800.DR

#### Policy Options:

Community Safety	33,000.DR
Youth Forums	10,000.DR
Occupational Health Sickness Counselling	35,000.DR
Legal Counsel Fees	200,000.DR

#### Virement :

Post PP/01/009 to Technical Services	21,200.CR
Seasonal Trading Income to Cultural Services	9,300.DR

#### Reduced Requirement:

Archive Support Service Recharge	2,200.CR
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#### Increased Internal Recharge:

Legal Counsel Fees recharge to Childrens Services	200,000.CR
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<b>Budget Approved by Council 1 March 2006</b>	<b>6,865,700.DR</b>
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## 2.2 Service Areas

The £6,865,700 agreed by Cabinet on 1 March 2006, can be analysed as follows :

	£
Tourism and Marketing	1,307,700.DR
Legal & Democratic	1,407,700.DR
Human Resources	135,000.DR
Performance Management	1,524,300.DR
Strategic Development	2,431,900.DR
Central Services	104,600.DR
Service Re-engineer – Savings Target	<u>241,000.CR</u>
Total Net Budget for Corporate Services	<u>6,865,700.DR</u>

## 3. FINANCIAL MONITORING 2006/07

### 3.1 Progress On Policy Options

3.1.1 The sum of £33,000 was allocated to the Area Forums for Community Safety Initiative. Progress on this item and the Youth Forums below will be reported in November following the first funding round of Community initiatives.

3.1.2 The sum of £10,000 has been allocated over the 4 Youth Forums to be spent on projects beneficial to young people.

3.1.3 The sum of £35,000 has been allocated to Occupational Health. The purpose of this being to fund the costs of Sickness Counselling.

3.1.4 The budget for legal costs associated with Counsel's fees was increased by the sum of £200,000 to support the growing demand for hearings in court cases from Children's Services.

### 3.2 Progress On Savings

3.2.1 The savings agreed by Council have been integrated within the relevant Departmental budgets and are being closely monitored.

### 3.3 Bridging Finance

3.3.1 There was no bridging finance allocated to Corporate Services Department for 2006/07.

### 3.4 Cabinet decisions

3.4.1 There have been no further Cabinet decisions affecting the Corporate Services budget.

### **3.5 Service Re-engineering**

- 3.5.1 The Corporate Services Department share of the overall savings target for the year 2006/07 is £241,000. This will be achieved through £20,000 savings arising from 1 Business and £221,000 from vacancy control.

### **3.6 Variations**

- 3.6.1 There have been no variations identified at this stage of the year and the following is an area regarded as liable to change :-

#### Asset Management

The disposal of land element of the Asset Management budget is traditionally a volatile area as expenditure is determined by the level of the Council's acquisition and sale of land and buildings which will vary in accordance with the Council's policies and priorities. No adverse variances are apparent.

## **4. FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 For 2006/07 the agreed current estimate for the Corporate Services Department is £6,865,700.
- 4.2 There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

## **5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

## **6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

## **7. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

## **8. LOCAL MEMBERS SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no specific implications for any Member or Ward.

## **9. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

**10. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are none arising from this report.

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 None were used in the preparation of this report.

**12. RECOMMENDATIONS**

12.1 That the report be noted.

12.2 That a further report be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

J WILKIE

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE/DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

This report was prepared by Hilary Pollard who can be contacted on 666 3394.