

# **METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL**

## **FINANCE AND BEST VALUE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**21 JUNE 2006**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

#### **MEMBERS TRAINING**

##### **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. It would be advantageous for Members of the Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet to have a good understanding of the finances of the Council. This report proposes a training course for Members to be conducted over two sessions to achieve this aim.

##### **2. THE NECESSITY FOR TRAINING**

- 2.1. By general consensus, the finances of local government are very complex. Wirral Council is a large Local Authority facing significant financial pressure. In this situation it would be advantageous to Members of the Finance Committee individually, and to be Council generally, for there to be greater understanding of the finances of the Council.
- 2.2. This training would be in addition to the training being offered to Members in the role of scrutiny. The training could probably be delivered over two sessions of two hours each.
- 2.3. The revised Use of Resources (UOR) assessment, which forms an integral part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), is likely to include a requirement for Members involved in Finance to have undertaken training to enable them to understand the finances of the Council, if the Council is to achieve a score of 3 in the UOR. The Council currently has a score of 2 for UOR and an overall score of 2 for the CPA.

##### **3. COURSE CONTENT**

- 3.1. I recommend that the following elements be included in the course:-
- (a) Funds of the Council - General Fund  
Collection Fund  
Capital Fund  
Insurance Fund  
Pension Fund

- (b) Income of the Council - Revenue Support Grant
  - Business Rates
  - Specific Grants
  - Fees and Charges
  - Council Tax
  - Borrowing
  
- (c) Resource Management - Medium Term Financial Strategy
  - Annual Budget
  - Cash Flow
  - Budget Monitoring
  
- (d) Expenditure of the Council
- (e) Collection Fund
- (f) Capital Programme
- (g) Insurance Fund
- (h) Pension Fund

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

- 4.1. The financial and staffing implications will be contained within existing budgets.

#### **5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

- 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. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

#### **8. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

#### **9. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

#### **10. LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

**11. RECOMMENDATION**

11.1. That Members agree suitable dates for the provision of this training course.

IAN COLEMAN  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

FNCE/118/06