

COUNCIL – 12 February 2007

OBJECTION: CABINET Minute 225 (Projected Budget 2007/08)

Proposed by Councillor Green
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Rennie

That, pursuant to paragraph (1) of the minute, the following proposals be not accepted and therefore referred to the relevant overview and scrutiny committee:

- (i) To explore all options to encourage independence for those who use services in making their own arrangements for transport and maximise the contribution of charges in supporting that objective (proposed saving £200,000); **[Social Care]**
- (ii) To negotiate better use of extended schools in provision of services to the community (proposed saving 30,000); **[Culture]**
- (iii) To reduce the library book fund by £100,000; **[Culture]**
- (iv) Re-profiling of alley-gating programme (saving £25,000); **[Housing]**
- (v) To reduce the cost of democracy by £50,000 by:
 - returning to six overview and scrutiny committees and eight area forums (matching the police beats as before);
 - limiting train travel to a maximum cost of no more than the standard second class ticket;
 - monitoring taxi use to ensure essential use only;
 - limiting attendance at conferences, with first preference being given to portfolio holders and the Chairs of scrutiny committees and bookings for guaranteed attendance only. **[Finance]**

It was not necessary for the Council to vote on this objection, but subsequently it approved the following separate objection (37:26):

- (1) Council notes that reducing the number of overview and scrutiny committees and the number of area forums, with the aim of achieving an annual saving of £50,000, would require an amendment to the Constitution of the Council.
- (2) Council resolves, therefore, not to receive the proposed saving and that the estimates to be submitted to the budget meeting of the Cabinet reflect the current democratic arrangements of the Council.

The effect of this objection is to remove the need for the Finance and Best Value O & S Committee to consider the first part of the saving proposal

OBJECTION: CABINET Minute 225 (Projected Budget 2007/08)

Proposed by Councillor Kelly
Seconded by Councillor Bob Moon

That, pursuant to paragraph (1) of the minute, the following matters be referred to the appropriate overview and scrutiny committee, and that those committees report their conclusions to the budget meeting of the Cabinet:

- (i) Savings from review of services provided for young people - £200,000. The **Children's Services and Lifelong Learning** Committee is requested to consider the impact on youth services in all parts of Wirral and the ability of the Council to fulfil its obligations arising from recent youth voice events.
- (ii) Savings from reduction in the Library Book Fund - £100,000. The **Culture, Tourism and Leisure** Committee is requested to consider the impact the reduction will have on the use and viability of libraries.
- (iii) Savings from the deletion of posts within the Regeneration Department - £80,000. The **Regeneration and Planning Strategy** Committee is asked to consider whether the vacant posts and saving could best be reinvested to support the emerging investment strategy.

It was not necessary for the Council to vote on this objection.