

WIRRAL COUNCIL

FINANCE AND BEST VALUE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 APRIL 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

MEMBERS TRAINING

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. It is essential for Members of the Finance and Best Value 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 requirement.

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 this Committee individually, and to the Council generally, for there to be greater understanding of the finances of the Council.
- 2.2. The revised Use of Resources (UOR) assessment, which forms part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), contains 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.
- 2.3. The training could probably be delivered over two sessions of two hours each. At the meeting of this Committee on 6 February 2007 following a presentation on budgetary control, Members requested that a more detailed presentation be included in the Members training course. The 26 June 2007 has been identified for one evening of the course but a second evening is still to be identified.

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) Expenditure of the Council
- (d) Resource Management - Medium Term Financial Strategy
Annual Budget
Cash Flow
Budget Monitoring
- (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/79/07