



## Finance and Best Value Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday, 28 October 2008</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>4.00 pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall</b>

**Contact Officer:** Mark Delap  
**Tel:** 0151 691 8500  
**e-mail:** [markdelap@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:markdelap@wirral.gov.uk)  
**Website:** <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

---

### 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. PROJECTED BUDGET 2009/2011 (Pages 1 - 2)

At the meeting of the Cabinet on 16 October 2008 (minute 217 refers) a number of budget savings were proposed and the following resolution was agreed:

“(1) Cabinet recognises that these are difficult times financially for everyone and that it must do all it can to ensure that Wirral’s Council Tax Payers are not faced with the additional burden of high Council Tax increases. Cabinet understands the need to make urgent savings in order to close Wirral’s budget gap and therefore recommends the following...”

Cabinet asked that these items be referred to the relevant Overview

and Scrutiny Committee for urgent consideration. There are five proposals which fall within the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee. These are:

- Information Technology Services – £100,000
- ITS Hardware Review – £50,000
- Housing and Council Tax Benefit improved use of technology – £600,000
- Review of Cash Handling – £10,000
- Treasury Management – £500,000

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### FINANCE AND BEST VALUE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28 OCTOBER 2008

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

#### PROJECTED BUDGET 2009/11 – REFERRED SAVINGS

##### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. At Cabinet on 16 October 2008 a number of budget savings for 2009/10 were proposed and referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee for urgent consideration.

##### 2. PROPOSED SAVINGS

2.1 Information Technology Services £150,000

2.1.1 The creation of the Corporate IT Unit which has involved employees transferring from other departments has enabled savings to be delivered in the current financial year. A further £100,000 saving in staffing costs is projected for 2009/10.

2.1.2 The contract for the Information Technology hardware and storage capacity is due to be re-tendered. With the refinements made as part of the IT Strategy and changes in the IT market a £50,000 saving is anticipated.

2.2 Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services £610,000

2.2.1 In terms of Housing and Council Tax Benefit there have been continuing improvements in service delivery, especially in processing claims via the customer access channels including the One Stop Shops. Allied with the work around the National Fraud Initiative the improvements have attracted increased Government Subsidy. A saving of £600,000 is anticipated in 2009/10.

2.2.2 With the award of the new banking contract in 2007/08 the opportunity was subsequently taken to review the existing cash collection arrangements. The changes have been implemented and a saving of £10,000 achieved.

2.3 Financial Services £500,000

2.3.1 The Treasury Management Annual Report presented to Cabinet on 26 June 2008 highlighted the changes in activities which had improved the management of the Council cash flow. As a consequence there was reduced need for temporary borrowing in 2007/08 saving £500,000. This benefit continues to be delivered in 2008/09 and is now offered as a permanent saving for 2009/10.

**3. FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

3.1. The proposed savings total £1,260,000 for 2009/10.

3.2. There are no additional staffing implications arising directly from this report.

**4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

**5. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1. There are none arising 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. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

8.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

**9. MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. There are no direct implications for any Member or Ward.

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 None were used in compilation of this report.

**11. RECOMMENDATION**

11.1. That Members approve the proposed budget savings of £1,260,000 from 2009/10.

IAN COLEMAN  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE