

Call for Special Meeting of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

In the light of:

- The failure of this administration to refer any budget savings to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny committees for proper scrutiny;
- The decision taken by Council on December 12th to suspend the relevant part of the Constitution in order to avoid any such scrutiny;
- The lack of any detailed Cabinet reports setting out the details of the budget savings, and their consequences;
- The lack in particular of any explanation of the impact of the loss of over 1300 posts, the restructuring necessary to protect services, and the costs of that restructuring;

We, the undersigned members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, call for a special meeting of this committee to be held before February 21st to investigate:

- Any proposed re-structuring of services, with associated costs.
- What the impact on the public of any changes or reductions to service will be
- The manner and timescale in which proposals are being handled
- Whether or not statutory requirements for consultation with those affected by the proposals have been met, where such requirements exist.
- Whether or not the Council's best practice on consultation on individual proposals has been met.
- Whether or not there are any reductions in specific grant, and if so how those reductions in specific grant will be met.
- What the impact for services will be of any reductions arising from the reduced formula grant which now includes a number of former specific grants previously ring fenced to support particular services
- What the impact will be of zero inflation, including on contracts, when inflation is predicted to rise above 4%
- What the impact will be of any transfer of resources over from another authority, and whether or not that transfer amounts to an overall reduction in service levels from previous years.
- The possible knock on and impact on the voluntary sector who may be currently commissioned, or grant aided, to provide services.
- Any proposed increases in fees or charges
- Any changes to contracts with outside providers that may affect levels of service or charges for service
- **Any other matters relevant to the budget setting process at a time when the Council faces a £52million reduction in its budget in one year.**

Chris Meaden

CHRIS MEADEN

Walter W. Smith

WALTER SMITH

Anne McArdle

ANNE McARDLE