

WIRRAL COUNCIL

COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30 OCTOBER 2008

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

PROJECTED BUDGET 2009/2011 – REFERRED BUDGET SAVINGS STUDENT AWARDS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Cabinet on 16 October 2008 (minute 217) a number of budget savings were proposed and Cabinet recommended that items relevant to each Overview and Scrutiny Committee be referred for urgent consideration. This report details one of these savings and explains the background.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Student Support Services Team administers applications for Student Loans on behalf of the Government. Wirral has approximately 6,200 students registered. The Team also administers the Learner Support Funds provided to the Authority by the Learning and Skills Council.
- 2.2. The Government announced the transfer of the scheme from local authorities to the Student Loans Company, a Non Departmental Public Body based in Darlington, in July 2006. This issue was reported to Cabinet on 28 March 2007 and 13 March 2008. These reports are appended.
- 2.3. The agreed transition plan manages the reducing workload, ensuring service standards are maintained whilst planning for staff reductions. These reductions will need to take place with effect from December 2008 as the Authority will deal with approximately 3800 students' applications in 2009/2010 with further reductions running through to April 2011.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The proposed saving is £50,000 for 2009/10.

4 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are none arising from this report.
-

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are none arising from this report.

9. ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising from this report.

10 SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising from this report.

11. LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising from this report.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 None were used in compilation of this report.

13. RECOMMENDATION

13.1. That members approve the proposed budget saving of £50,000 in respect of the ongoing reduction in the processing of Student Awards from 2009/2010.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

FNCE/240/08
