

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## COUNCIL EXCELLENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 JULY 2009

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

#### MEMBERS FINANCE TRAINING

##### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. It would be advantageous for Members of the Council Excellence Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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 aim.

##### 2. THE NECESSITY FOR TRAINING

- 2.1. By general concensus, 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 the Committee individually, and to the Council generally, for there to be greater understanding of the finances of the Council.
- 2.2. This training would be in addition to the training being offered to Members in the role of scrutiny. The training could probably be delivered over two sessions of two hours each.
- 2.3. The revised Use of Resources (UOR) assessment, which forms an integral part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), assumes a requirement for Members involved in Finance to have undertaken training to enable them to understand the finances of the Council.

##### 3. COURSE CONTENT

- 3.1. I recommend that the following elements be included in the course:-

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| (a) Funds of the Council  | - General Fund<br>Collection Fund<br>Capital Finance<br>Insurance Fund<br>Pension Fund  |
| (b) Income of the Council | - Revenues Support Grant<br>Business Rates<br>Area Based Grant<br>Specific Grants<br>Fees and Charges<br>Council Tax<br>Borrowing |

(c) Resource Management - Medium Term Financial Strategy  
Annual Budget  
Cash Flow  
Budget Monitoring  
Treasury Management

(d) Expenditure of the Council  
(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/127/09