

Eden District Council

**Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board
13 January 2011**

**Executive
25 Jan 2011**

Final Report Scrutiny Review of the Budget 2011/12

Report of the Director of Policy and Performance

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report sets out the views of Scrutiny regarding the Executive draft budget.

2 Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

a) the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board confirms that it is content that the Executive has produced the most effective budget, in the light of the Resources Plan, to meet the council's priorities and the strategic actions in the corporate plan

b) the Executive notes the comments of Scrutiny in respect of their draft budget.

3 Report Details

3.1 Each year a Scrutiny group meets to consider the Executive draft budget. This year the group has already made an interim report which was accepted by the Executive on 2 November. That report dealt with the second two items in the Group's original Terms of Reference:

- I. To consider whether the Executive has produced the most effective budget, in the light of the Resources Plan, to meet the council's priorities and the strategic actions in the corporate plan.
- II. To review areas of service with higher spending than comparable authorities and/or low corporate priority to identify where efficiencies can be made.
- III. To make recommendations as to where savings might be found, where services could be discontinued or where services should be retained.

3.2 Therefore this report only addresses the first item.

- 3.3 At an informal meeting of all Scrutiny members on Wednesday 15 December, members considered the draft budget that has been produced and concluded that the Executive has produced the most effective budget, in the light of the Resources Plan, to meet the council's priorities and the strategic actions in the corporate plan.

4 Policy Framework

- 4.1 The Council has four corporate priorities which are:

- Affordable Housing
- Quality Environment
- Economic Vitality
- Quality Council

Council on 7 February 2008 agreed fifteen strategic actions to achieve these priorities.

- 4.2 The Scrutiny function helps to ensure a quality Council.

5 Implications

5.1 Legal

- 5.1.1 There are no legal implications.

5.2 Financial

- 5.2.1 As part of the 2008-11 corporate planning process the Council adopted a resource prioritisation process in which every area of council activity was allocated to one of four resource categories. These categories (which were agreed at Council on 7 February 2008) remain in force until the next corporate plan is adopted.

- 5.2.2 None.

5.3 Equality and Diversity

- 5.3.1 The Council has to have regard to the elimination of unlawful discrimination and harassment and the promotion of equality under the Equality Act 2006 and related statutes.

- 5.3.2 None.

5.4 Environmental

- 5.4.1 The Council has to have due regard to conserving bio-diversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

- 5.4.2 None.

5.5 Crime and Disorder

5.5.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Council has to have regard to the need to reduce crime and disorder in exercising any of its functions.

5.5.2 None.

5.6 Children

5.6.1 Under the Children Act 2004 the Council has to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the exercise of any of its functions.

5.6.2 None.

5.7 Risk Management

5.7.1 There are no risk management implications.

6 Reasons for decision/recommendation

6.1 To enable the Executive to consider these recommendations whilst considering draft budgets.

Councillor R Burgin
Chairman of Budget Scrutiny Group

Governance Checks:

Checked by or on behalf of the Chief Finance Officer	✓
Checked by or on behalf of the Monitoring Officer	✓

Background Papers:

Contact Officer: Ruth Atkinson, Director of Policy and Performance

Telephone Number: 01768 212202