

**REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 18 OCTOBER 2004**

**REPORT ON: REVENUE BUDGET 2005/2006 - FEEDBACK FROM COUNCIL TAX PAYERS**

**REPORT BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (FINANCE)**

**REPORT NO: 712-2004**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform elected members of the incorporation of an exercise within the annual Revenue Budget process, whereby council taxpayer's views are sought.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee are asked to approve the following:-

- 2.1 That the officers be instructed to carry out an exercise on the 2005/2006 Revenue Budget, whereby council taxpayers' views are sought. This exercise is to be carried out over a six week period commencing on Monday 1 November 2004 and ending on Friday 10 December 2004.
- 2.2 That the officers be instructed that this exercise be carried out using the Council's internet site and that appropriate access is made available in the Council's Libraries and Neighbourhood Centres for this to take place. Council Tax payers will also have the opportunity to complete hard copy responses to the consultation exercise at the Council's Libraries and Neighbourhood Centres.

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate financial implications associated with this report.

**4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

None

**5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

None

**6 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 The Council has a duty to communicate with its Council Tax payers regarding its activities. This has been done in a number of ways but mainly through Consumer Surveys and inviting stakeholders to comment on plans and performance.
- 6.2 This year the Council would like to communicate with Council Tax payers on the preparation of it's 2005/06 Revenue Budget. To that end a number of internet pages have been constructed advising the reader on how the process works and linking that information to the Council Plan 2003-2007, the Provisional Revenue Budget 2005/06 and the Performance Report 2004.
- 6.3 The site includes an easy on-line reply facility where members of the public can post their views on what they think of the budget. Members of the public will be able to utilise computers at Council Libraries and Neighbourhood Centres to do this and if they wish they will be able to complete hard copy forms at the premises to make their views known.

**8 CONSULTATIONS**

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), the Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) and the Head of Communities have been consulted on this report.

**9 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Provisional Revenue Budget 2005/06  
Council Plan 2003-2007  
Performance Report 2004

**DAVID K DORWARD  
DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (FINANCE)**

**11 OCTOBER 2004**