

**48/07 (6) - Property Management Business Unit:** The Cabinet Member (Finance and Resources) was invited to present the budget. The Cabinet Member outlined the approach taken to the budget, the key issues and the key variations, the proposed efficiency savings and the main risks to the budget and advised that there were no growth items. He advised there were two business areas, Building Management and Estates Management and that the major variances for Building Management represented an overall increase of £153,000 which included increased maintenance, utility, rental, rate and insurance costs and additional expenditure and reductions in employment, cleaning and district heating and refrigeration costs. Estates Management saw an overall increase of £370,000 which included increased in supplies and services, appropriations from reserves and additional expenditure and reductions in premises costs and income. He detailed the cash efficiency savings which included district heating and refrigeration energy savings of £17,410 and car park lighting cash savings totalling £5,200. Non-cash savings related to the EDU and Property Management restructure of £12,000 and the control of Legionella Bacteria of £10,820. Fees and charges had been increased by 4% and major risks to the budget were property condition, asbestos management, fire safety and the control of Legionella Bacteria. It was also noted that £118,133 in the District Heating Reserve would be used in 2008 to part fund the boiler replacement.

Questions were then invited. Space Houses Farm was discussed (due to the financial requirements) and also the difference between Building and Estates management was explained. Members also considered the various methods of reducing energy consumption in Council owned buildings and the Principal Facilities Manager advised that the Council were monitoring energy consumptions and looking at various options to reduce energy consumption and noted that there would be a report going to Cabinet later on in the year. The management of older properties was discussed and how this was reflected in the Corporate Asset Plan. One Member queried why there had been a decrease in income at the Ripon Bus Station public toilets. The Principal Facilities Manager stated that there had been a less than anticipated usage of the attended toilets and they would be reverting to a non-manned and non-charging facility from April 2008.

Members agreed the budget.

(Seven Members voted for the motion and there were three abstentions)

(6.32 pm - 6.57 pm)