

56/08 (1) - **Department of Corporate Policy and Improvement:** The Leader was invited to present the budget. The Leader advised that the budget comprised of the Office of the Chief Executive and the DCPI cost centres which included Corporate Policy and Improvement, Civil Contingencies, DCPI rechargeable accounts and the staff establishment and there were no growth items. Some of the major variances for 2009/10 included a reduction in the Assistant Chief Executive's salary, a decrease in Annual Report costs, the pay award and the transfer of the procurement function to the Department of Resources.

He stated that cash savings of £11,000 had been achieved through a £5,000 saving in the Assistant Chief Executive salary and a £6,000 saving on the cost of the production of the Council's Annual Report. The main risks to the budget were the loss of a Local Strategic Partnership administration grant of £10,000 and unforeseen changes to statutory duties.

Questions were then invited. One Member queried why there was a variance on the net saving on the Assistant Chief Executive's salary as detailed in Appendices A2 and A3 of the report. The Strategic Policy Officer **agreed** to circulate a response on this matter to Members. Questions were also asked regarding the secretarial support for the Chief Executive's Personal Assistant and additional resources to assist the Scrutiny Officer in his work.

RESOLVED:

That Members noted the budget.

(Six members voted for the motion and there were three abstentions)

(5.33 pm - 5.45 pm)