

11/09 - **SCRUTINY OF THE BUDGET 2010/11**: The Scrutiny Officer explained the way in which scrutiny of the 2010/11 budget could be undertaken. The single Commission could scrutinise the whole of the budget, with an initial Member briefing and supply of documents taking place in January 2010, followed by an extended meeting to consider in-depth issues and receive presentations from Officers. Scrutiny Member representatives with a particular interest in and understanding of the budgetary process could also be invited to attend Officer budget setting meetings in order to pinpoint any major issues for the Commission to consider at its extended meeting.

Councillor Geoff Webber felt that consideration of the whole budget at essentially one meeting would be unsatisfactory but it was **agreed** that there was insufficient time in which the Commission could break into smaller groups and consider individual elements of the budget. The attendance of some Members at the early Officer meetings would make the Commission's consideration more efficient by highlighting any areas of concern. The discussions around the budget highlighted a need for Member training on the setting and understanding of budgets, particularly practical training on the reading of budgets themselves and it was **agreed** that the Scrutiny Officer would present a report on the way forward to a future meeting of the Commission.

(6.37 pm - 6.52 pm)