



REPORT TO	Council Resources Overview and Scrutiny Commission
DATE:	20 April 2004
REPORTING OFFICER:	Scrutiny Officer Mr M Codman
SUBJECT:	Member Budget Scheme Review Information
WARDS AFFECTED:	All
FORWARD PLAN REF:	N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 At its meeting held on 23 March 2004 The Council Resources Overview and Scrutiny Commission considered the Notice of Motion tabled at Council on 3rd March 2004 in the names of Councillors de Courcey-Bayley and Webber which was referred to Cabinet and subsequently to the Council Resources Overview and Scrutiny Commission. The Notice of Motion was,

‘That this Council confirms its earliest intention to reinstate Member Ward Budgets at the earliest opportunity and in the meantime undertakes a full review of the conditions regarding the projects that can be so funded’.

1.2 It was resolved that the Commission would undertake a review of Member Ward Budgets, which would include the consideration of the Council’s strategic objectives and scope this review at the next meeting of the Commission to take place on 20 April 2004

1.3 This report therefore details relevant background information in order that the Commission can determine the final scope of the review, additional information requirements and key stages for the programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

2.1 That the Commission use the information to determine the final scope of the review, additional information requirements, key stages for the programme and the full review methodology.

3.0 INFORMATION

Member Budget Scheme

- 3.1 The Member Budget scheme was adopted in 2002/03 on a one year trial basis, subject to the inclusion of a growth item of £108,000 in the 2002/03 Budget. A copy of the original report for approval dated 26 September 2001 is attached at **APPENDIX A**.
- 3.2 Attached at **APPENDIX B** is an update report on the Member Budget Scheme dated 18 December 2002 proposing an amendment to the existing scheme
- 3.3 A report detailing a summary of activity during the first year of operation and proposed amendments was agreed by CMT/Cabinet on 22 May 2003/25 June 2003 and this is attached at **APPENDIX C**.
- 3.4 A summary of the Member Budget Scheme including main conditions, eligible schemes, detailed conditions, procedure, reporting and follow up procedures is attached at **APPENDIX D**.
- 3.5 A summary of the approved schemes for 2002/03 including Ward, Councillor, Scheme Details and Cost is attached at **APPENDIX E**.
- 3.6 A summary of the approved schemes for 2003/04 including Ward, Councillor, Scheme Details and Cost is attached at **APPENDIX F**
- 3.7 A summary of applications that have been received but not approved for 2003/04 is attached at **APPENDIX G**. It should be noted that these are all applications and that not meeting the appropriate criteria is only one of the potential reasons for approval not being received.

Council Priorities

- 3.8 A copy of the Council's draft Vision and Corporate Priorities Statement is attached at **APPENDIX H**. The current priorities were approved by Council prior to the CPA inspection in January 2004. They were approved on the understanding that they had not been ranked and that they would go out to consultation with staff, councillors, partner organisations, parish councils and residents. This consultation process is now in hand. Along with the results of the SIMALTO exercise it will be used to inform a strategic planning event in July. This may mean that amendments are made to the priorities. They would then be approved as long-term corporate priorities in September 2004.
- 3.9 This information can be used by the Commission to determine the final scope of the review. It includes relevant background information concerning the Member Budget Scheme that the Commission can consider when reviewing the conditions of the scheme. It also includes information regarding the Council's draft Vision and Corporate Priorities Statement so that the commission can include the consideration of the Council's strategic objectives in the review.

3.10 A blank review proforma is also attached at **APPENDIX I** to enable a scope for the work to be undertaken. This will include any additional information requirements, key stages for the programme and the full review methodology. As part of this process the Commission may want to consider obtaining the views of all Members concerning any proposed amendments to the Member Budget Scheme.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 At its meeting held on 23 March 2004 The Council Resources Overview and Scrutiny Commission considered the Notice of Motion tabled at Council on 3rd March 2004 in the names of Councillors de Courcey-Bayley and Webber which was referred to Cabinet and subsequently to the Council Resources Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

4.2 It was agreed that the Commission would undertake a review of Member Ward Budgets, which would include the consideration of the Council's strategic objectives and scope this review at the next meeting of the Commission to take place on 20 April 2004

4.3 This report therefore details relevant information for the Commission in order that it can determine the final scope of the review, additional information requirements, key stages for the programme and the full review methodology.

Background Papers – None

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact Mr M Codman, Scrutiny Officer if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at the Council Offices Crescent Gardens Harrogate HG1 2SG by telephone on 01423 556153 or by Email – mark.codman@harrogate.gov.uk

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT / POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

		Implications are		
		Positive	Neutral	Negative
A	Economy		✓	
B	Environment		✓	
C	Social Equity		✓	
i)	General			
ii)	Customer Care / People with Disabilities			
iii)	Health Implications			
D	Crime and Disorder Implications		✓	

If all comments lie within the shaded areas, the proposal is sustainable.