

CO-OPERATIVE SCRUTINY BOARD

Cabinet's Draft Responses to Budget Scrutiny Recommendations



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

This report sets out the draft response to recommendations made by the Co-operative Scrutiny Board following its consideration of the indicative report 'Delivering the Co-operative Vision within a three year sustainable balanced budget'.

Draft Cabinet response to the scrutiny recommendations.

	Recommendations	To	Draft Cabinet Response
R1	That the Police and Crime Commissioner, in consultation with Chief Constable, reconsider how the force is represented at the Council's budget and Corporate Plan scrutiny sessions in the future.	Police and Crime Commissioner	Cabinet will support the Board in negotiating better alignment with Devon and Cornwall Constabulary over medium term financial planning.
R2	That clear and specific priorities for health outcomes are agreed between partners and are the focus for delivery of all relevant agencies.	Health and Wellbeing Board	
R3	That the Leader and Chief Executive consider how the voice of the community and voluntary sector can be better heard by One Plymouth and by other Council Partners.	Cabinet	Agreed. The Civil Society Policy will set out shared aims for interaction with the community and voluntary sector.
R4	Cabinet should consider the impact of ring-fencing capital receipts from Plymouth Community Homes 'Right to Buy' sales to investment in the City's housing stock.	Cabinet	More decent homes are a key outcome set out in the Corporate Plan, and every effort will be made to maximise investment in this area from all relevant parties.
R5	That the proposals for addressing the challenges faced in the City Centre over the next three years are published for discussion.	Cabinet	Proposals for the city centre are being taken forward through the Plymouth Plan, with the support of the city Centre Business Improvement District.
R6	That the Cabinet Member for Finance considers consultation arrangements with the Council's partners over its capital spending priorities.	Cabinet	A Public Sector Land Board will form part of the delivery of the City Deal, co-ordinating best use of assets amongst key partners in the city.
R7	Further reassurance is needed concerning the robustness of the figures relating to transformation income, savings and investment prior to the presentation of the 2014-15 budget to Council.	Cabinet	The published budget report contains further detail concerning the programme for 2014-15. The Co-operative Scrutiny Board is invited to engage with the programme over the coming months to ensure that it plays an active part in supporting and challenging the programme as it develops.

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R8	Information relating to the deliverability of the 2014/15 transformation proposals, which are part of the statutory budget, are made available for scrutiny.	Cabinet	As R7 above.
R9	The assumptions on which the transformation figures for 2015/17 are based, and the risks associated with delivery, should be available for scrutiny.	Cabinet	As R7 above.
R10	The role of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board and its Panels in holding the executive to account for the delivery of the transformation programme in the coming year should be clarified, agreed and published.	Co-operative Scrutiny Board	
R11	The proposals for the engagement of the community and voluntary sector in the Council's transformation programme are prepared for discussion.	Cabinet	As R7 above.
R12	Revenue projections from car parking and their use in the improvement of transport over the next three years are published.	Cabinet	Agreed. The cabinet will provide both revenue and capital contributions to transport improvement priorities over the next three years, although projections for parking revenue are based on assumptions concerning supply and demand which are subject to change.
R13	The Council commits to ensuring that the Living Wage is adopted by third party contractors through its commissioning and procurement arrangements.	Cabinet	The Co-operative Commissioning and Market Management Framework sets out the Council's aims with respect to maximising the social value of third party contracts.
R14	The Cabinet Member for Transport responds to the concerns raised by the Fairness Commission about the impact of high public transport costs on people with low incomes.	Cabinet	The Cabinet Member for Transport will continue to ensure the best value possible for users of public transport having already introduced the skipper multi-operator ticket. He will, however await the final recommendations of the Fairness Commission before responding.

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R15	The Co-operative Scrutiny Board engages with the appropriate agencies to ensure that the City's flood protection infrastructure is fit for purpose.	Co-operative Scrutiny Board	
R16	That detail of the skills development programme identified for investment of £800k in each of the next three years is presented to the Co-operative Scrutiny Board as part of the arrangements for the scrutiny of the transformation programme.	Cabinet	See R7 above.
R17	That the Co-operative Scrutiny Board commissions a review of the arrangements for staff engagement and negotiation, given the nature of organisational change affecting the Council.	Co-operative Scrutiny Board	
R18	That work related stress issues are closely monitored and results brought to the Co-operative Scrutiny Board with reports on sickness levels.	Cabinet	This is already within the remit of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board.
R19	The Council demonstrates leadership in championing a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to youth unemployment, including those with different abilities and special needs to maximise the take-up of employment opportunities for all young people.	Cabinet	This work is already underway through the Child Poverty Strategy, the Youth Deal which forms part of the City Deal, and a number of other key initiatives, including the 1000 Club.
R20	The evidence relating to public transport costs being a barrier to children and young people's access to education, employment and training is reviewed and appropriate action is taken to address it.	Cabinet	See R14 above.
R21	A cross-party response is made from the Council to government raising concerns about the high costs of child care and the resulting impact on access to employment.	Cabinet	Agreed.
R22	The Co-operative Scrutiny Board commissions a review into best practice in information sharing across all appropriate partners.	Co-operative Scrutiny Board	

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R23	The Council makes the case for continued funding for Disabled Facilities Grants from the Better Care Fund and other appropriate funding sources.	Cabinet	Provision is already in place with the Better Care Fund for Disabled Facilities Grants. We will continue to make the case for appropriate funding for Disabled Facilities Grants.
R24	The Council urgently addresses the underspend in the Exceptional Hardship Fund to ensure that appropriate support is given to all those who qualify by reviewing its use and the eligibility criteria.	Cabinet	Plans are already in place to address the underspend.
R25	An action plan addressing a revised approach to health inequalities across the city is brought to the Caring Scrutiny Panel within six months by the incoming Director of Public Health.	Director of Public Health	Noted.