

# Corporate Scrutiny Committee

## Agenda

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday, 14th June, 2011</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Committee Suite 1,2 &amp; 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ</b>

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The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

### **PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT**

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 1 - 6)
3. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests and for members to declare the existence of a party whip in relation to any item on the agenda.

4. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

A total period of 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public to make a statement(s) on any matter that falls within the remit of the Committee.

Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes, but the Chairman will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned, where there are a number of speakers.

Note: In order for officers to undertake any background research, it would be helpful if members of the public contacted the Scrutiny officer listed at the foot of the agenda, at least one working day before the meeting to provide brief details of the matter to be covered.

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For any apologies or requests for further information, or to give notice of a question to be asked by a member of the public

**Contact:** Mark Nedderman  
**Tel:** 01270 686459  
**E-Mail:** [mark.nedderman@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:mark.nedderman@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

5. **Work Programme Progress Report** (Pages 7 - 14)

6. **Forward Plan - Extracts** (Pages 15 - 20)

To note the current forward plan, identify any new items, and to determine whether any further examination of new issues is appropriate.

7. **Consultations from Cabinet**

To note any consultations referred to the Committee from Cabinet and to determine whether any further action is appropriate.

**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Scrutiny Committee**  
held on Thursday, 14th April, 2011 at The Tatton Room - Town Hall,  
Macclesfield SK10 1DX

**PRESENT**

Councillor A Thwaite (Chairman)  
Councillor J Narraway (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors A Arnold, G Baxendale, J Crockatt, H Davenport, M Davies,  
P Edwards, J P Findlow, D Topping and S Wilkinson

**Apologies**

Councillors D Brickhill and S Conquest

**99 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2011, be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**100 OFFICERS PRESENT**

Mark Nedderman – Senior Scrutiny Officer  
Dave Upton - Organisational Change Manager

**101 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor H Davenport declared a personal interest in respect of items CE10/11-61 and CE10/11-62 in the forward plan, on the grounds that he was a Member of Disley Parish Council.

Councillors G Baxendale, AR Thwaite, PJ Edwards and J Narraway declared personal interests in respect of item CE10/11-62 in the forward plan on the grounds that they were Members of Congleton Town Council, Congleton, Town Council Middlewich Town Council and North Rode Parish Council respectively.

**102 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

There were no members of the public present who wished to make a statement.

**103 WORK PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee considered a report of the Borough Solicitor setting out the 2010/2011 work programme.

The The Committee reviewed the current work programme with a view to making recommendations for the handover to the new committee in the 2011/2012 civic year.

The Committee was reminded that the following 3 monitoring groups had been set up during 2010/2011 and that consideration should be given as to whether all 3 groups should continue in the new civic year. :

- The Highways Contract
- Macclesfield Data Centre
- Budget Monitoring

RESOLVED- (a) That the report be received;

(b) That an item be placed on the agenda of the next meeting in June 2011 to consider whether the Budget Consultation Monitoring group should continue;

(c) That work of the Highways Monitoring Group and Macclesfield Data Centre be received and noted

(d) That the work programme be approved subject to the deletion of the following items:

- Communications service
- Shared Services

### 104 **DEPOT RATIONALISATION**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Environmental Services and Borough Treasurer and Head of Assets relating to the progress of phase 1 of the depot rationalisation project.

In December 2010, the Committee had received a report on the depot rationalisation project and at that time had been informed that:

- The Council would be evaluating future options for all depots used for Cheshire East business, including Council owned sites used by external contractors;
- Depots that did not meet current and future business needs would be decommissioned within a phased plan;
- Opportunities for capital receipts and revenue reductions would be explored
- The Council's vision was to move towards its 2 super depots in Crewe and Macclesfield;
- Assurances were being made that there was the capacity to meet all operational needs during the transition process;
- Stock held at sites would be rationalised.

The Depots review had been split into 3 phases:

- Phase 1 – involved changes that could be made now to protect business continuity and to declare depots no longer required for operational purposes surplus to Environmental Services requirements
- Phase 2 – would proceed after the letting of the Highways maintenance contract
- Phase 3 – would tie in with longer term Council depot requirements linking with the long term waste and vehicle maintenance strategies.

The project, which was being led by an officer working group, had set the following objectives:

- Identify changes needed to protect business continuity
- Rationalise number of sites
- Super depots
- Make better use of the sites
- Identify potential capital receipts/Revenue savings
- Identify where we need to make investment to raise standards
- Devolution process/Town and Parish Councils

To date, the project had identified the following issues:

- That there too many sites and some were in the wrong locations
- A significant amount of repairs required
- Under-utilised space
- Clutter
- Poor staff facilities (E.g.Mess room/Showers)
- Some sites were outside of Cheshire East and there were issues such as excess travel/Carbon)
- Still operating in silos
- 7 sites had Fuel bunkers (

On behalf of the Committee, the 4 Members of the Business Generation Task and Finish Group had visited depots at Lyme Green Macclesfield, Brunswick Wharf Congleton, Town yard Alsager and Pyms Lane Crewe on 11 April 2011 to witness at first hand the facilities at each of these locations.

The Committee then questioned David Upton, Organisational Change Manager about phase 1 of the proposals.

In response to a question concerning the suitability of the depot at Town Yard Alsager for an affordable housing scheme, David explained that the Council first needed to take a decision in principle as to whether the site was considered to be surplus to requirements.

Members raised concerns about the proposal to offer three sites to Poynton Parish Council under the devolution process banner, on the grounds that the future of the 3 sites had not been subject to the wider strategic asset challenge process and also because the financial case for offer from the Parish Council was not known.

In summary, the proposals involved :

- Relocating all fleet vehicles and vehicle maintenance staff from Phoenix House Winsford to Pyms Lane Depot, Crewe. The vehicle maintenance facilities at Pyms Lane Depot would be improved by re-opening a currently dis-used facility to enable future maintenance to be carried out in-house as this element of work.
- Relocating the Greenspace team from Phoenix House Winsford to premises within Cheshire East – to be identified.

- Carrying out essential works to develop new operations and improve the utilisation of the buildings and yard at Pyms Lane Depot Crewe.

The following would be recommended as surplus to the requirements of Environmental Services, once they had been vacated for operational purposes:

- a) Town Hall Yard Depot, Alsager ;
- b) Wellington Road Depot, Bollington;
- c) Somerton Road Depot, Macclesfield;
- d) Barnaby Road, Poynton;
- e) Anson Road Depot, Poynton;
- f) London Road North Depot, Poynton.

Brunswick Wharf Depot, Congleton was in very poor condition and would require major investment to provide modern facilities. This Depot was currently under-used since Waste collection vehicles had been relocated to Pyms Lane Depot. Brunswick Wharf depot along with part of Pyms Lane Depot that had been offered to the bidders for the highway maintenance contract. Therefore, the future of this Depot could only be determined after the contract was awarded.

RESOLVED- That subject to the Committee's reservations concerning the offer of three depots to Poynton Parish Council, being raised with the Portfolio Holder for Procurement, Assets and Shared Services, the recommendations contained in phase 1 of the depot rationalisation review be endorsed.

## 105      **BUSINESS GENERATION CENTRES**

The Chairman referred to the work of the Business Generation Centre Task and Finish group which had concluded two weeks ago. The final report was still in draft stage and could not therefore be considered by the Committee until the new civic year. In addition, the Committee was informed that Sandbach Town Council had expressed an interest in taking over one of the buildings involved in the investigation at Sandbach Enterprise Centre, Wesley Avenue Sandbach in accordance with the Council's devolution proposals. It would be necessary therefore to carry out further investigations to determine the status of Sandbach Town Council's enquiry.

RESOLVED – that the report be received.

## 106      **FORWARD PLAN - EXTRACTS**

The Committee considered items listed in the current Forward Plan.

RESOLVED – That the Forward Plan be received and noted

## 107      **CONSULTATIONS FROM CABINET**

There were no consultations from Cabinet.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.40 pm

Councillor A Thwaite (Chairman)

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## **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

### **REPORT TO: CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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**Date of Meeting:** 14 June 2011  
**Report of:** Borough Solicitor  
**Subject/Title:** Work Programme update

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#### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 To review items in the 2011/2012 Work Programme listed in the schedule attached, together with any other items suggested by Committee Members.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

That the 2011/2012 work programme be reviewed.

#### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 It is good practice to agree and review the Work Programme to enable effective management of the Committee's business.

#### **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All

#### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

#### **6.0 Policy Implications including - Carbon reduction - Health**

- 6.1 Not known at this stage.

#### **7.0 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 Not known at this stage.

#### **8.0 Legal Implications**

- 8.1 None.

#### **9.0 Risk Management**

9.1 There are no identifiable risks.

## **10.0 Background and Options**

10.1 In preparation for the 2011/2012 civic year, the Committee reviewed the 2010/2011 work programme to identify any items that could be deleted, and those which should remain. The schedule attached to this report reflects that position.

10.2 The following three matters had been subject to Overview and Scrutiny monitoring during the last 12 months:

- Highways Contract Monitoring Group
- Macclesfield Data Centre Monitoring Group
- Budget Monitoring Group

10.3 This committee originally set up the Highways Monitoring group to monitor the progress of the procurement process. A decision on the Highways contract is expected on 6 June 2011, which in effect closes the procurement process and it therefore follows that there will be no need to re convene the monitoring group.

10.4 The Macclesfield data centre monitoring group consisted of only two Councillors both of whom are no longer Members of this Committee. The Committee received a very brief update report at its previous meeting but up to that point, very little had been reported to the Committee by way of progress, and therefore the need for this group to continue must be in doubt.

10.5 For the past two years, the Committee has appointed a Budget Monitoring Group. In the 2010/11 civic year, its terms of reference were:

- To influence the budget setting process and to ensure that the Council has regard to Corporate priorities and to agree and set milestones.
- To submit initial comments on the draft budget prior to formal consultation with the 5 Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- To determine the future consultation process for Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- To have in place an agreed mechanism for regular budget monitoring

Its intended outcome was to:

1. Budgets to be disaggregated to fit in with the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements in relation to budget setting.
2. Agreement that each of the 5 Overview and Scrutiny Committees be given an opportunity to have an input in setting budget priorities for the 2011/2012 budget.

3. An advisory report to Cabinet, containing the preliminary views of Corporate Scrutiny on the budget challenge process, in light of the Government's funding announcement.
  4. A cycle of dedicated O&S meetings in early January to formally comment on the budget
- 10.6 It is well documented that due to late decisions by Government on the Comprehensive Spending Review, the focus of this group shifted away from the original terms of reference as it became involved in detail consideration of the budget and the budget challenge process.
- 10.7 The Committee is requested to consider whether this group should be reconvened. If it is to be continued, the Committee may wish to consider amending its terms of reference to concentrate on a narrower focus of the Budget Consultation Process.
- 10.8 Members will recall that a number of changes were made to Portfolio responsibilities at the Annual meeting of Council on 18 May 2011. Prior to that decision, the 5 Overview and Scrutiny committees were aligned to individual Portfolio holders. In particular, the changes are likely to have a significant impact on the potential workload of Corporate Scrutiny committee in that the following service areas no longer fall within the remit of this committee:
- Assets
  - Libraries
  - Leisure Services
  - Leisure and Cultural Strategy
- 10.9 The Scrutiny Chairmen's group has been charged with the initial task of reviewing the remits of the Committees and it is expected that Council will take a formal decision in July 2011. The group is due to meet the Leader of the Council immediately prior to this meeting to discuss with him the rationale behind the Cabinet changes. For that reason, it will not be possible to finalise the work programme today, because the responsibilities of all 6 Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be subject to Council approval on 21 July 2011.
- 10.10 Members are asked when reviewing the work programme attached to pay close attention to the Corporate Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- 10.11 Members must also have regard to the general criteria which should be applied to all potential items when considering whether any Scrutiny activity is appropriate. Matters should be assessed against the following criteria:
- Does the issue fall within a corporate priority
  - Is the issue of key interest to the public
  - Does the matter relate to a poor or declining performing service for which there is no obvious explanation
  - Is there a pattern of budgetary overspends

- Is it a matter raised by external audit management letters and or audit reports?
- Is there a high level of dissatisfaction with the service

If during the assessment process any of the following emerge, then the topic should be rejected:

- The topic is already being addressed elsewhere
- The matter is subjudice
- Scrutiny cannot add value or is unlikely to be able to conclude an investigation within the specified timescale

## **11    *Access to Information***

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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Designation: Senior Scrutiny Officer  
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Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme May2011

Issue	Description/Comments	Suggested by	Portfolio Holder as at may 2011	Corporate Priority	Current Position R,A,G	Date for completion
Budget	Consultation group set up to review consultation arrangements for 2011/2012.	Committee	W Fitzgerald	Being an excellent Council and working with others-to truly deliver in Cheshire East – Value for money	The Committee now needs to decide whether it wishes this group to continue in 2011/12 and beyond.	Start date June 2010 and ongoing
Macclesfield Data centre	Derived from the programme to Harmonise and improve ICT facilities across the Council	Committee	W Fitzgerald	Being an excellent Council and working with others-to truly deliver in Cheshire East – Value for money	The Committee now needs to decide whether it wishes this group to continue in 2011/12 and beyond	Ongoing
Risk Management	Assess the Council's Risk management arrangements	Committee	D Brown	Being an excellent Council and working with others-to truly deliver in Cheshire East – Value for money	Progress report expected in July 2011. Training to be offered to all Committees	Ongoing
Local Highways and Transport/liaison Committees	Consider setting up local political arrangements to advise/determine local highway and transportation	Chairman	R Menlove	The growth and development of a sustainable Cheshire East	Progress report presented to March 2011	TBA

	issues				meeting. The Committee noted the proposal to involve Ward Members in new arrangements through LAPs to allocate the £350,000 for minor maintenance works	
Libraries Progress Report	Matter referred from Sustainable Communities Committee as a result of the realignment of remits	Sustainable Communities	A Knowles	The growth and development of a sustainable Cheshire East	Due to the change in portfolio holder responsibilities, this service is no longer with this Committee	TBA
Outsourcing of discretionary Leisure and Cultural Services	Matter referred from Sustainable Communities Committee as a result of the realignment of remits	Sustainable Communities	A Knowles	The growth and development of a sustainable Cheshire East	Due to the change in portfolio holder responsibilities, this service is no longer with this Committee	TBA
Depot Rationalisation	To monitor the progress of the depot rationalisation programme. This stemmed from the Asset challenge	Committee	P Mason	The growth and development of a sustainable Cheshire East	Comments of the Committee have now been forwarded to the	TBA

	process				Portfolio holder responsible for assets	
Business Generation Centres	Recommend a policy on the future of 4 Council owned Business generation centres	Committee	P Mason/J Macrae	The growth and development of a sustainable Cheshire East	Final report awaited.	July 2011

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## **FORWARD PLAN 1 JUNE 2011 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2011**

This Plan sets out the key decisions which the Executive expect to take over the next four months. The Plan is rolled forward every month. It will next be published in mid                      and will then contain all key decisions expected to be taken between .....and ..... Key decisions are defined in the Councils Constitution.

Reports relevant to key decisions, and any listed background documents may be viewed at any of the Councils Offices/Information Centres 6 days before the decision is to be made. Copies of, or extracts from these documents may be obtained on the payment of a reasonable fee from the following address:-

Democratic Services Team  
Cheshire East Council ,  
c/o Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach Cheshire CW11 1HZ  
Telephone: 01270 686463

However, it is not possible to make available for viewing or to supply copies of reports or documents, the publication of which is restricted due to confidentiality of the information contained.

A decision notice for each key decision is published within 6 days of it having been made. This is open for public inspection on the Council's Website, Council Information Centres and Council Offices.

The law and the Council's Constitution provides for urgent key decisions to be made. A decision notice will be published for these in exactly the same way.

Forward Plan 1 June 2011 to 30 September 2011

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	Relevant Scrutiny Committee	How to make representation to the decision made
CE10/11-78 Wilson Bowden Development Agreement	To approve the final terms and conditions contained in the revised Development Agreement relating to Macclesfield Town Centre.	Cabinet	3 May 2011		Environment and Prosperity	John Nicholson, Strategic Director Places
CE10/11-92 Proposed Closure of Macclesfield High School Upon the Establishment of an 11-16 Academy	To approve the closure following formal statutory consultation.	Cabinet	3 May 2011	Formal statutory consultation process followed by a statutory 6 week representation period.	Children and Families	Lorraine Butcher, Director of Children and Families
CE11/12-1 Neighbourhood Policing Service Level Agreement	To approve the Neighbourhood Policing Service Level Agreement for 2011/2012.	Cabinet	3 May 2011	Safer Cheshire East Partnership/Police Authority.	Sustainable Communities	John Nicholson, Strategic Director Places

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>Relevant Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>
CE10/11-67 The Cheshire East Economic Development Strategy	To approve the Economic Development Strategy.	Cabinet	6 Jun 2011	Meetings with key stakeholders, Parish Councils, Local Area Partnerships, Chambers of Commerce and businesses; website consultation.	Environment and Prosperity 8 February 2011	John Nicholson, Strategic Director Places
CE10/11-84 Highways Services Procurement	To approve the selection of the preferred bidder to deliver highways services from October 2011 and to authorise officers to take any necessary action.	Cabinet	6 Jun 2011	With bidders via the competitive dialogue process, staff, stakeholder groups and unions in writing and at meetings.	Environment and Prosperity; Transformation of Highways Services Sub Cttee	John Nicholson, Strategic Director Places
CE10/11-69 Libraries Services Strategy Development	To determine the approach to the delivery of library services.	Cabinet	4 Jul 2011	Staff, customers, Ward Members, Town and Parish Councils by means of meetings, notices and briefings.	Corporate Scrutiny 1 February 2011	Guy Kilminster, Head of Health and Wellbeing Services

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>Relevant Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>
CE10/11-89 Cheshire East Housing Strategy	To adopt the Local Housing Strategy, a key document which articulates the housing vision for Cheshire East, setting out the housing priorities and way in which they will be delivered.	Cabinet	4 Jul 2011	With stakeholders, partners, general public during the development of the Strategy; the Draft Strategy will also be consulted upon.	Prosperity	John Nicholson, Strategic Director Places
CE11/12-2 Home to School Transport	To consider changes to the current home to school transport policy.	Cabinet	4 Jul 2011	Full public consultation including paper and online questionnaire, public drop in sessions, press releases, website, schools bulletin, e-mail to heads and interested parties.	Children and Families Scrutiny 31 May 2011	Lorraine Butcher, Director of Children and Families
CE11/12-6 Crewe Green Link Road Highway Project - Compulsory Purchase of Land	To approve the commencement of the process necessary for the compulsory purchase of land for the construction of this highway scheme.	Cabinet	4 Jul 2011	Legal services, affected landowners and the developers.	Prosperity	John Nicholson, Strategic Director Places

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>Relevant Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>
CE10/11-62 Transfer and Devolution of Services and Functions to Town and Parish Councils	To receive an update on the project and to approve any points of negotiation reached.	Cabinet	1 Aug 2011	With Town and Parish Councils, local ward members, staff and unions.	Sustainable Communities	Ceri Harrison, Head of Corporate Improvement
CE10/11-90 Home Improvement Agency Review	To agree the future delivery of Home Improvement Agency Services across Cheshire East.	Cabinet	1 Aug 2011	Supporting People commissioning body, existing service providers and the PCT	Health and Social Care	John Nicholson, Strategic Director Places
CE11/12-5 Think Local Act Personal - A National Strategy for Local Implementation	To reaffirm support for personalisation as the delivery mode for publicly funded care, and to develop arrangements for self funders that maximise their ability to be independent of the Council for as long as possible.	Cabinet	1 Aug 2011		Health and Adult Social Care	Phil Lloyd, Director of Adult, Community Health and Wellbeing Services
CE10/11-7 Crewe Green Link Road 'Best and Final Offer'	To approve that the Strategic Director Places, Head of Regeneration and the Borough Treasurer can finalise and submit the Council's 'best and final offer' bid for Government funding for the project.	Cabinet	1 Aug 2011	Basford East and West Developers, local ward members and Parish Councils.	Prosperity	John Nicholson, Strategic Director Places

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decisions to be Taken</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Expected Date of Decision</b>	<b>Proposed Consultation</b>	<b>Relevant Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>How to make representation to the decision made</b>
CE11/12-3 Cheshire and Warrington Local Investment Plan 2	To approve the draft Local Investment Plan 2 for Cheshire and Warrington prior to its submission to the Cheshire and Warrington Leaders Board.	Cabinet	5 Sep 2011	With regional partners (formally known as housing associations) by presentations and circulation to interested parties.	Environment and Prosperity 5 July 2011	John Nicholson, Strategic Director Places
CE10/11-49/1 Future Operation Knutsford Cinema	To decide on the future running and preferred operating model.	Cabinet	3 Oct 2011	Local community groups and Knutsford Town Council.	Corporate	Guy Kilminster, Head of Health and Wellbeing Services
CE10/11-49/2 Future Operation of Crewe Lyceum Theatre	To decide on the future running and preferred operating model.	Cabinet	5 Dec 2011	Voice for Crewe, local community groups, Crewe Charter Trustees,	Corporate	Guy Kilminster, Head of Health and Wellbeing Services
CE11/12-4 Business Planning Process 2012/2015 - Budget Report	To approve the Business Planning Report for 2012/2015 incorporating updated budget and policy proposals together with the Capital Programme.	Cabinet, Council	6 Feb 2012	With all Members and a range of local stakeholders including PCT's, Parish Councils, social care representatives, businesses, trades unions, the schools forum and the public.	To be determined but expected to be a scrutiny budget consultation group.	Lisa Quinn, Borough Treasurer and Head of Assets (Section 151 Officer)