



**WARDS AFFECTED:
ALL**

**ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ECONOMIC AND PLANNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**31 JANUARY 2007
18 JANUARY 2007
TBA**

DRAFT REVENUE STRATEGY FOR THE REGENERATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT

**Report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture
Department and the Chief Finance Officer**

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek views of the Scrutiny Committee on the draft revenue strategy for the Regeneration and Culture Department, which have been requested by the Cabinet Member.

2. Summary

2.1 As members will be aware, the Council is committed to a system of medium-term financial planning.

2.2 This requires departments to plan their budgets within the context and framework of a corporate strategy. It does this by:

- (a) requiring each director to prepare a forward looking departmental revenue strategy, identifying all budget pressures within an overall framework;
- (b) enabling draft strategies to be discussed with scrutiny committees, partners and trade unions in good time prior to the commencement of the budget year.

2.3 A corporate revenue strategy will be submitted to the Council for approval in February.

2.4 Departmental draft revenue strategies reflect the financial pressures faced by the Council. Budgets are expected to remain under pressure for the duration of the three year strategy. Future government spending plans to be announced for 2008/09 onwards remain unknown, but are expected to reflect the need to contain overall public spending and be tighter than has been experienced in previous years.

- 2.5 The draft revenue strategy for the Regeneration and Culture Department, which has been prepared by the corporate director in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member, will be circulated to members under separate cover. Its status is purely a draft for consultation. No formal decisions will be made until the proposals, together with scrutiny comments, are considered by the Cabinet in February.
- 2.6 The Cabinet Member has asked for the views of your Committee on the proposed strategy, and in particular has asked:
- (a) whether your Committee endorses the draft strategy as the best way forward in the context of the strategic framework;
 - (b) whether your Committee has any alternative proposals it would wish the Cabinet to consider;
 - (c) what your Committee's views are on the options contained within the strategy.
- 2.7 In giving its views, your Committee is asked to be mindful of the obligation to balance the department's budget for the next 3 years.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to consider the draft revenue strategy and make its comments to the Cabinet.

4. Financial and Legal Implications

- 4.1 This report is exclusively concerned with financial issues.
- 4.2 As this report deals with next year's budget, Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 applies to members in arrears of council tax.

5. Other Implications

<u>Other Implications</u>	<u>Yes/No</u>	<u>Paragraph References within Supporting Papers</u>
Equal Opportunities	Yes	See the impact assessment included at appendix 2.
Policy	Yes	This report contains the budget strategy for Regeneration and Culture from 2007/8 to 2009/10
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime & Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly / People on Low Incomes	No	

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