



# **EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY PANEL**

**23 FEBRUARY 2005**

**6.30 PM**

**ROOM 4, CIVIC OFFICES,  
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES**

## **A G E N D A**

Chair: Councillor J Lloyd  
Councillors: Benning, Gerrella, Jury, Long, Seymour and Tamagnini-Barbosa

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Apologies**

### **2. Minutes**

To approve, and the Chair to sign as a correct record, the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Scrutiny Panel held on 29 September 2004 (Item 2a) (**Pages 4 to 6**) and 27 October 2004 (Item 2b) (**Pages 7 to 8**).

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Members and officers to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business to be transacted.

### **4. Council Wide Budget 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 (Decision C158)**

The reports considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 15 February 2005, are set out in this agenda at Item 4 (**Pages 9 to 103**) and 4a (**Pages 104 to 107**). Following consideration of the reports, the Cabinet resolved:

- (a) That the feedback from consultation with the public, organisations and the Policy Development Committees, be welcomed.
- (b) That the Council's representations on the provisional finance settlement and the response from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister be noted.
- (c) That the projected 2004/05 outturn position be noted and that, the 50% of any under spend from its total 2004/05 budget be pooled corporately and spent in 2005/06 on Spend to Save initiatives approved by the Cabinet.
- (d) That the changes proposed, in the light of the consultation and the final settlement, be agreed.
- (e) That the implications of the 2005/06 budget in the following two years, 2006/07 and 2007/08 be acknowledged, and the policy priorities and the budget review process be considered at the meeting of the Cabinet in March 2005 in the context of an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- (f) That the issues and risks detailed in the Chief Finance Officer's statement on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of the reserves be acknowledged.
- (g) That the Local Government Minister's warnings about the potential use of his reserve powers to limit budget increases be acknowledged).
- (h) That the Gershon detailed guidance is to be announced shortly be noted and a report on the implications for the Council be submitted to the Cabinet in March.
- (i) That the Council be recommended to :

- (i) maintain a minimum prudent level of unallocated general fund reserves (excluding schools) of £5m at the end of any financial year from 2005/06; and
  - (ii) to re-affirm the reserves strategy, to achieve an optimal level of unallocated general fund reserves of £7m, to be accumulated with the next four years, with at least £6.5m achieved within three years.
- (j) That the Council be recommended to agree a General Fund Budget for 2005/06 of £259.997m (an increase of 9.6%, or £22.774m over the 2004/05 budget).
- (k) That the impact of the change in pupil numbers to the Learning and Development Directorate budget be noted and that the following changes to the Schools Budget be approved:

	£000
Increase in Primary AWPU by 6% rather than 5%	176
Increase in Secondary AWPU by 4.75% rather than 4%	26
Increase in Nursery place funding by 6% rather than 5%	2
Fully meet the requirements of the Special Formula Review	88
Initial Allocation for the Olney Campus of Ousedale School	49
Increase to facilities time budget	30
Reinstate the cut to the Schools Specific Contingency	25
Residual balance to be added to the AER budget	10
	406
	406

- (l) That the Council be recommended to agree that the additional resources be used to smooth out the impact of the School System Re-organisation for 2006/07 and 2007/08.
- (m) That the Council be recommended to increase the Council Tax by 4.5% for 2005/06, for its own purposes.
- (n) That the levy requirements be considered as part of the report to the Council on 28 February 2005.

This decision has been called-in by Councillor Nigel Long. The reasons for the call-in will be circulated at the meeting.