

Minutes of the meeting of the **Member Budget Monitoring Working Group** at a reconvened meeting held on **11 July 2000** when there were present:

Cllr G Fox – Chairman

Cllr Mrs J Helson

Cllr C R Morgan

Cllr P F A Webster

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R E Vingoe.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren	-	Chief Executive
R Crofts	-	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
J Bostock	-	Principal Committee Administrator

### **89 FINAL ACCOUNTS 1999/2000 AND BUDGETS 2000 TO 2002**

The Working Group received the attached briefing note from the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services), which set out key items relating to the final accounts 1999/2000 and budgets 2000 to 2002. The final accounts would be presented in full to Council on 25 July 2000.

Responding to Member questions, officers advised that-

- The general fund underspend of £189,000 should be seen in the context of overall expenditure and had been subject to many variables.
- At this stage a number of large companies had indicated an interest in the refuse collection/recycling contracts.
- A decision on the NNDR refund for leisure centres was in the hands of the Lands Tribunal.
- Government proposals relating to concessionary fares were scheduled to be introduced in April 2001. At this stage it was understood all persons over 65 would be eligible to receive a pass. In terms of the impact on the Authority, much would depend on the nature of final arrangements i.e. whether a direct grant is introduced or the standard spending assessment mechanism used.

## Item 5

- The Capital Programme anticipated Etheldore capital receipts. Interest earned on the investment of capital receipts is credited to the General Fund.
- The underspend on refuse collection contract payments could be associated with the revised inflation position, the number of properties actually serviced and contract penalties.
- The overall position relating to salaries would be clearest by the Autumn cycle, when various key matters would have been resolved.

During debate Members recognised the value of timetabling regular monitoring of the accounts/budget position. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to timetable a meeting of the Working Group prior to recess for consideration of the Capital Programme and for meetings to be convened as soon as practicable to address staffing elements.

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm and closed at 6.17pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....