

Appendix 3

BUDGET SETTING AND COUNCIL TAX – COMMENTS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING ON 4 FEBRUARY 2010

The Head of Financial Services gave a presentation on the Budget Consultation for 2010/2011.

The Chair indicated that the Scrutiny Support Officer would collate all comments and send them to the Head of Financial Services to be included in the budget report to the Cabinet.

A number of questions were asked by a member of the public in relation to the following:

- Bins - the need to model services requirements with existing resources
- Leisure – the need to know the whole cost implications before making the final decision.
- Pay and Wages

Councillor Essex indicated that Rossendale residents wanted to see improved services, but at lower costs.

In considering the report Members discussed the following areas:

- Retaining staff and enabling them to better their skills
- Rossendale providing a better service
- Council's contribution to Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)
- Methods used for the budget consultation
- Need to look at efficiency savings on waste vehicles

There was discussion on the refuse fleet and ensuring maximum life out of our vehicles. The Operations Manager explained the process and that at present vehicles have a 3 year warranty, but there was a possibility of extending this further.