

## Appendix A - Budget Task and Finish Group - 5<sup>th</sup> October 2012

### Notes of meeting.

#### Present:

Councillors Carol Goodall, Graham Middleton, David Norris, Sue Steele (Chair) and Derek Yeomans.

#### Officers:

Donna Parham Assistant Director – Finance and Corporate Services

Jayne Beevor – Principal Accountant

Emily McGuinness – Scrutiny Manager

Members considered each of the inescapable and growth bids submitted by managers in turn and made the following comments:

2013/14 INESCAPABLE COMMITMENTS					
		2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000	Scrutiny Task & Finish Group Comments	Follow Up responses
Ref	New Inescapables				
E2	Building Control-Reduction in fee income	100.0		Endorse bid – members recognised that the service had already significantly reduced staffing levels and currently had a vacant post.	
E3	Eng & Property Services- One year loss of commercial rent	15.0	(15.0)	Endorse bid – members acknowledged the difficulty officers face trying to rent out properties in the current climate and that any new tenants would expect a rent free period in which to carry out works to the property.	

<b>2013/14 INESCAPABLE COMMITMENTS</b>					
		<b>2013/14 £'000</b>	<b>2014/15 £'000</b>	<b>Scrutiny Task &amp; Finish Group Comments</b>	<b>Follow Up responses</b>
E4	Eng & Property Services- CCTV income from Yeovil Town Council fixed at £30K	5.0		£5k -CCTV income from YTC- What is the length of the contract and why was it not inflation linked?	There is no length of contract as such and it is an ongoing contribution they make to the operation of the system. Yeovil TC are now asking for a service level agreement for all the contributions they make and CCTV will be one of them. As a contribution it was never indexed linked but this may be put in the SLA by agreement when drawn up.
E5	Eng & Property Services- Shortfall in car park income	80.0		Endorse bid – hopefully the completion of the review of the Car Parking Strategy will allow for consideration of additional income generation.	
E6	Eng & Property Services- Reduction in car park season ticket sales	15.0		Members noted the ongoing work with YDH about staff parking in SSDC car parks and the impact this would have on revenue from season tickets and endorsed the bid.	
E7	Streetscene-Profit element following loss of Cartgate picnic area & Thorne House maintenance contract	29.0		Members expressed disappointment that the service had not been able to bid to continue providing an excellent service and in endorsing the bid noted that the service manager would continue to seek additional sources of income.	
E8	Democratic Services-Cost of councillors' pension scheme	12.0	1.0	Endorsed – unavoidable	
E10	Eng & Property Services- Loss of street fixed penalty income following introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement	18.0		18k - Loss of fixed penalty income re CPE- this was covered by the financial implications of the Jan10 DX report and built into the 11/12 budget as an inescapable and should therefore be withdrawn.	Agreed with G Green that this would be withdrawn.

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		<b>2013/14 £'000</b>	<b>2014/15 £'000</b>	<b>Scrutiny Task &amp; Finish Group Comments</b>	<b>Follow Up responses</b>
E11	Revs & Bens-Dept of Works & Pensions reduction in benefit admin grant	75.0		This could reduce when we know our grant settlement but is a prudent estimate of the amount needed.	
E12	Licensing-Town Councils retention of taxi licensing function (reversal of 12/13 saving)	7.0		Withdrawn	
E13	Countryside-Access licences for permissive access along Langport-Muchelney cycleway	1.8		Members requested that Area North be requested to consider taking on this cost.	ADM North-Important scheme and Area North would need to be consulted upon it.
E14	Revs & Bens-Increased demand for Business Rate Relief	40.0		Members endorsed the bid whilst noting that the outcomes of a proposed review of Business Rate relief would take some time to have an impact and in the meantime, the additional costs would be unavoidable.	
E15	Revs & Bens-Additional Revenues Officer re Introduction of Council Tax reduction scheme	24.7		Members appreciated the impact of the introduction of a Council Tax reduction scheme as well as change in the way we administer Business rates and the need to increase technical capability within the team and so endorsed the bid.	
E16	Revs & bens-Additional Revenues Technical Officer re introduction of Council Tax reduction scheme & Business Rate retention.	29.0			

2013/14 INESCAPABLE COMMITMENTS					
		2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000	Scrutiny Task & Finish Group Comments	Follow Up responses
E17	Area South-Market shortfall in income	6.0		Members sought clarification on whether / why pitch fees had been frozen. They noted that the figures quoted related to a reduction in income rather than an increase in costs and whilst any income is obviously advantageous, every effort should be made to maximise the income from market across the district.	ADM South-I have spoken to Market Manager. Traders can't pack up before 3 o'clock (unless Manger makes a decision to close early due to adverse weather) to avoid any health and safety issues with vans/packing up etc. The traders can pack up anytime between 3 and 5.30 by which time they have to have left the market site. The time they leave after 3 pm is entirely down to them and is mainly based on how they feel about trading conditions.
	<b>Total Inescapable Commitments</b>	<b>457.5</b>	<b>(14.0)</b>		

### Growth Bid

		2013/14 £'000	Task and Finish Group Comments	Follow up comments
G1	Streetcleaning Team and Van		Members acknowledge that the service is high priority and significantly contributes towards the reputation of the authority. They noted that the services described in the bid should in the main be provided by the County council. Members supported the bid but sought clarification from the Portfolio Holder as to where funding would be redirected from to support this growth bid (they did note that the service is currently being 'leaned' and any identified savings would be redirected to support this growth bid). They also sought further information as to what SSDC's mandatory responsibilities are in terms of Street Scene provision.	The Strategic Director – Operations and Customer Focus stated that the service is anticipating that the additional £58k would arise from the Lean suggestions. If the Lean process does not provide the whole £58k, the bid would need to be reconsidered or additional revenue savings considered.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>58.4</b>		