

## Council

24 March 2011

## Agenda Item 89

Brighton & Hove City Council

**Subject:** Overview and Scrutiny Report: The Societal Impact of the In-Year Budget Reductions

**Date of Meeting:** 24 March 2011

**Report of:** Strategic Director Resources

**Contact Officer:** Name: Tom Hook Tel: 29-1110  
E-mail: Tom.Hook@brighton-hove.gov.uk

**Wards Affected:** All

### FOR GENERAL RELEASE

#### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution requires that the findings of scrutiny panels, along with the executive response, be reported to Full Council for information.
- 1.2 This report presents to Council the findings of the scrutiny panel review into the Societal Impact of the In-Year Budget Reductions and the Executive response.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Member's note Appendices 1 and 2.

#### 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Government announcement of its emergency budget in June 2010 and the rapid in-year budget cuts this necessitated within the Council resulted in the Overview and Scrutiny Commission establishing a panel to look at the societal impact of the in-year budget reductions.
- 3.2 The scrutiny panel focussed on the societal impacts only of the specific grants affected by the 2010/11 in-year grant reductions announced in summer 2010.
- 3.3 The Panel heard evidence from the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum and budget holders on the grants subject to in-year cuts including:
  - Department for Education (Connexions, School Improvement, Extended Schools, Playbuilder, subsequently re-instated)
  - Road Safety

- Local Transport Plan programme capital funding
- Supporting People Administration
- Home Office funding and Prevent
- Housing & Planning Delivery
- Free Swimming

3.4 The panel made 6 recommendations, all of which were accepted by Cabinet. These were:

1. The Panel recommends that where service changes are proposed early and clear consultation with service users, employees and partners is ensured.
2. The Panel recommends that where not already in existence a clear understanding of priorities for and outcomes of, funding are available for all services. These should be reviewed regularly.
3. The Panel welcomes the strong partnership evident across the city and beyond and recommends that creative ways of strengthening sustainable partnership working on changing budgets be developed.
4. The Panel recommends that Equality Impact Assessments be undertaken for all major budgetary decisions and published as a matter of routine with budget papers. Risk and opportunity management consultation should also be reported.
5. The Panel recommends that the ongoing and longer term impacts of budget reductions should be monitored. The Council and partners need to agree a way to ensure that the impacts of changing budgets are understood.
6. The Panel recommends closer working with the CVSF to help improve dialogue between organisations linked to delivering the SCS priorities.

3.5 The full scrutiny panel report along with the evidence base is available in Members rooms and on the overview and scrutiny webpages.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 No formal consultation has been undertaken in relation to this report. The Scrutiny Review undertook extensive consultation.

## **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### Financial Implications:

5.1 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

### Legal Implications:

5.2 As indicated in paragraphs 1.1 and 2.1 above, and in accordance with the council's procedure rules on overview and scrutiny, this report is purely for Council to note. There are no further legal implications arising directly from the report.

Lawyer consulted: Oliver Dixon

Date: 10 March 2011

### Equalities Implications:

5.3 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

### Sustainability Implications:

5.4 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

### Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

### Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

### Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. Summary of the Societal Impact of the In-Year Budget Reductions
2. Executive response to the scrutiny recommendations.

### **Documents in Members' Rooms:**

1. Full Scrutiny Panel report and evidence base

