



## Agenda Item

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### Scrutiny Management Committee

26 June 2006

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

### **SCRUTINY BUDGET OUTTURN 2005/5 & BUDGETARY MEASURES 2006/7**

#### **Summary**

1. This report gives brief details of the scrutiny budget outturn position for 2005/6 and asks Members to consider how they wish to allocate budget resources to the Scrutiny Committees for 2006/7.

#### **Background**

2. At its meeting on 7 June, 2006, the Advisory Panel for City Strategy considered the performance and financial year end report for 2005/06, which gave details of the year end financial position for Legal, Democratic, Civic & Scrutiny Services.

In view of its budgetary and resource responsibilities, Scrutiny Management Committee is now informed of the outturn position for 2005/6 and asked to consider the allocation of funds to Scrutiny Committees for 2006/7 to support their review processes.

#### **Consultation**

3. Consultation on the outturn position for 2005/6 was undertaken as part of the full City Strategy EMAP report.

#### **Options**

4. In relation to the budget outturn figure given below, Members are only in a position to note the information at this stage in the financial year.
5. In relation to the proposal to allocate a flat budgetary figure to each of the main and Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee to assist with the running of their reviews, Member can choose either to support the proposal below, reject it completely or suggest an alternative figure.

## **Financial Outturn Year End 2006/7**

6. A final underspend for the year on the Scrutiny Budget (D593) of circa £7k was reported to the City Strategy EMAP, who were advised that that was due to continuing staffing vacancies on the structure (and the post of Scrutiny Manager still remains to be resolved as part of the Chief Executive's proposed restructure) and the fact that one member of staff has opted not to be in the pension scheme. It is proposed to bring regular quarterly budget monitoring reports to SMC in future to enable Members to assess the financial position in relation to scrutiny and match that to the scrutiny review process.

### **Allocation of Funds to Scrutiny Committees**

7. At the start of a new 'scrutiny year', Members are asked to consider whether they wish to continue to allocate a nominal sum to each established Scrutiny Committee, Ad-hoc or Standing, to support their administration costs in undertaking reviews.

A nominal figure of £250 per Committee is suggested as an appropriate sum in the first instance and is subject to review by this Committee should Committees find this amount does not adequately cover the associated ancillary costs.

### **Corporate Priorities**

8. The report does not directly relate to Corporate Priorities identified in the new Council Plan but supports the principles of scrutiny working transparently and openly in terms of providing information on available budgets to support the process.

### **Implications**

9. The financial implications associated with this report are as shown above in terms of the already reported outturn position and in terms of the authority vested in this Committee to allocate funds, as it sees fit, to its Scrutiny Committees/Sub-Committees to support their work. The arrangements suggested in paragraph 7 above are within the scrutiny budget.

There are no other known HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime & Disorder, IT or other implications associated with this report.

### **Risk Management**

10. In compliance with the Councils Risk Management Strategy, there are no known risks associated with this report.

## Recommendations

11. Members are asked to note the budget outturn for 2005/6 and to consider the allocation of a flat sum of £250 per Scrutiny Committee to assist with the administration of their scrutiny reviews.

**Reason:** To enable the Committee to effectively manage its budget and resources

## Contact Details

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Suzan Hemingway

Head of Civic, Democratic & Services

**Report Approved**



**Date** 16.06.06

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** *List information for all*

*Financial*

*J Ellis*

*Finance Officer*

*01904-551173*

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## Background Papers:

***Report to City Strategy Executive Member Advisory Panel – 7 June 2006***