

**Subject:** **Scrutiny Panel report on the Societal Impact of the In-Year Grant Reductions**

**Date of Meeting:** **14 December 2010**

**Report of:** **Strategic Director of Resources**

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**Wards Affected:** All

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission established a scrutiny panel to investigate the societal impact of the in-year grant reductions following the emergency budget announced by the Government in June 2010
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Panel members were: Councillor David Watkins (Chair), and Councillors Mitchell and Wakefield-Jarrett.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Panel report is included as **Appendix 1** to this report.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That Members endorse the Scrutiny Panel report on the Societal Impact of the In-Year Budget Reductions.

**3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Panel held two meetings. Members heard from the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum and from senior officers and budget holders in all the service areas affected by the in-year grant reductions.
- 3.2 Whilst service areas were affected in different ways by the in-year reductions depending on their circumstances the Panel did identify areas of common concern and good practice, in addition to experience with individual funding streams on which to base their recommendations.
- 3.3 The full report and recommendations forms **Appendix 1** to this report.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 A draft version of the report has been circulated to various officers.

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

##### Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The Panel's recommendations relate to funding reductions.

##### Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are none directly for the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

##### Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The Panel received two completed Equality Impact Assessments relating to the grant reductions; Free Swimming and School Improvement. A key recommendation of the Panel is that EIAs be routinely published with budget papers.

##### Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 None directly for Overview and Scrutiny Commission

##### Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 None directly for the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

##### Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The Panel makes a recommendation on risk and opportunity management implications.

##### Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The Panel has highlighted areas of good practice and concern to help inform future spending decisions.

#### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

##### **Appendices:**

1. Scrutiny Panel report on the Societal Impact of the In-Year Grant Reductions

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

1. None

##### **Background Documents:**

1. None.