

## Community Focus Scrutiny Committee



Date	7 January 2010
Venue	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members	Councillor Keith Hyde (Chairman) Councillor Christine Akeroyd (Acting Vice-Chairman)  Elizabeth Clarkson, Tony Ford, Lyndsay Greening, Kathleen Harper, Ken Hopwood, Linda Nulty, Dawn Prestwich, Elaine Silverwood, John Singleton, Thomas Threlfall
Other Councillors	None
Officers	Phillip Woodward, Allan Oldfield, Clare Platt, Tracy Scholes, Paul Walker, Lyndsey Lacey
Members of the Public	None

### Acting Vice-Chairman

Councillor Christine Akeroyd was appointed Acting Vice- Chairmen for the purposes of the meeting.

#### 1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

There were no declarations.

#### 2. Substitute members

The following substitution was reported under council procedure rule 22.3:

Councillor Elaine Silverwood for Councillor Maxine Chew

3. General Fund budget monitoring report 2009/10- position as at quarter ended 30 September 2009

The Chief Executive, Phillip Woodward provided members of the committee with an overview the General Fund 'hot spots' under and over spending for the quarter ended 30 September 2009.

The report provided details of actions taken to address the 'hot spots' and an update in respect of the savings targets agreed by members for 2009- 10 as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. The report also detailed the findings and issues emerging from budget monitoring carried out during the period 1st April to 30th September 2009.

The report made reference to significant improvements that were being made to the current spreadsheet budget monitoring tool which would involve the transfer of the budget information to the more robust and reliable CIVICA general ledger system. It was expected that this work would be completed by December 2009.

Mr Woodward explained that Appendix A of the report detailed the significant variances over £10k highlighted by budget monitoring undertaken during the year to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009. An alert tagging system had been added to help improve the layout and highlight budget areas of concern.

Mr Woodward further reported that Appendix B of the report detailed the in year Budget savings forecast position for the year against the targeted savings set by Budget Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009.

Mr Woodward made particular reference to various budget areas of concern that impinged on the Council's general income and areas that required further attention relating to costs. Mr Woodward indicated that an updated report for the next quarter would be submitted to the next meeting of the committee in March.

Members were advised that the Council continued to operate within an environment where tight financial control was essential. Quarterly monitoring reports were an integral part of the Council's financial monitoring framework, and the Portfolio Holder would receive further updates on a quarterly basis to highlight budget areas requiring further attention. The third quarterly report for October to December 09 will be presented to the Portfolio Holder in February and the Committee in March.

Members of the committee sought clarification on various matters including members' expenses, emergency planning, concessionary fares scheme, sale of sand, Wyre waste contract, capitalisation, hire of transport, corporate restructure, bin sacks, agency staff and information relating to consultants fees. The relevant Directors addressed each matter at the meeting.

Following consideration of the matter the committee RESOLVED to note the current position and the comments outlined in the report.