

Executive Response to the report of the Societal Impact of the In-Year Grant Reductions Scrutiny Review

Ref.	Recommendation	Recommendation accepted (Yes/No/In Principle)	If accepted; action taken or likely date of action
1	The Panel recommends that where service changes are proposed early and clear consultation with service users, employees and partners is ensured.	Yes	<p>As acknowledged by the Panel, there is a balance between communicating and consulting as early as possible and the need to avoid causing undue stress and concern.</p> <p>Consultation will continue to take place with relevant stakeholders at appropriate points in the development of proposals.</p>
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.	Yes	<p>In most areas a clear understanding of priorities and outcomes is known, with the Panel noting some good practice. The Coalition Government's move to a reduction in specific grants and ring-fencing means that the Council will have more local choice in priority setting than previously. The new Intelligent Commissioning Framework will ensure that clear outcomes are established for all key services and that achievement of those outcomes is monitored and reported.</p>
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.	Yes	<p>An exercise has been undertaken to assess the spend in the city by key public service agencies and how it may be affected by budget reductions. This has been reported to the Public Services Board and the Local Strategic Partnership. Chief Executives and Finance Directors (or equivalent) across the key public services agencies met immediately before Christmas to share information on their budget positions and consider how closer joint working can ensure a joined up approach to dealing with the collective financial challenges. An officer working group has been set up to consider the use of buildings by public agencies across the city and further work will be developed on collaborative procurement.</p>

Item 145 Appendix 1

			Work on the intelligent commissioning pilots has included analysis of cross public service and third sector spend and this will be further developed as this new model is rolled out.
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.	Yes	<p>As part of the budget process for 2011/12 an Equality Impact Assessment screening is being undertaken on each service area to highlight where there are areas requiring full assessment and set out the plans for this. Where service issues are identified as part of this screening or from completed impact assessments they will be highlighted within covering reports as the potential equality implications.</p> <p>For future years the assessment of equality impact, and any necessary consultation and engagement, will form part of the commissioning process. This will ensure that commissioning decisions are informed by the equality implications and that appropriate performance management is put into place.</p> <p>The potential risks and opportunities connected with changes to funding levels on service delivery should be assessed against the objectives and outcome measures identified for the service. The council has a risk & opportunity management methodology which will be applied in line with the operation of the council's new commissioning model and will link to the new Performance & Risk Management Framework. Work is underway to develop tools to assist managers and decision makers to consider the issues and inform dialogue between organisations. Information on consultations undertaken will be included in the Risk and Opportunity Management Implications section of relevant committee reports.</p>
5	The Panel recommends that the ongoing and longer term impacts of budget reductions should be monitored. The Council and	Yes	Within the Council the new Intelligent Commissioning Framework will ensure that the links between resource allocation, changing needs and outcomes achieved are clearly understood.

Item 145 Appendix 1

	partners need to agree a way to ensure that the impacts of changing budgets are understood.		The LSP will play a key role in ensuring that the partnerships across the city have a clear understanding of the impact of changing resource allocations.
6	The Panel recommends closer working with the CVSF to help improve dialogue between organisations linked to delivering the SCS priorities.	Yes	The Council continues to maintain close links with the CVSF at a strategic partnership level through the PSB and LSP and through key individuals such as the Cabinet Member for Community Affairs and Inclusion & Equalities and the Strategic Director for Communities. The CVSF is a full participant in the Council's Intelligent Commissioning Programme Board and is also actively engaged in the pilots.