

2. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THREE KEY ISSUES

Ken Lawn, Director of Operations, Bob Lineham, Director of Finance, and Chris Kerr (Business Process Manager) briefed the Committee on:

- Future Financial Projections: The Main Drivers of Projected Rates Increases.
- Capital Programme Trends: The Scale and Effects of the Council's Capital Programme.
- Budget Scrutiny Opportunities: Business Improvement, Level of Service and Funding and Review

Suggestions which emerged from the post-presentation discussion included:

- Adopt a unit-by-unit approach for the review of projects and programmes, starting with City Water and Waste Unit, and City Streets Unit, followed by the remaining asset units.
- Develop a protocol for the review between this Committee, the Standing Committees and the Annual Plan Subcommittee.
- Focus on the year 3 rate increase
- Review the Council's financial management principles and policies and associated ratios
- Review the Parks and Waterways land acquisition policy
- Review Public Accountability expenditure

The Committee **decided** to request staff to prepare for its next meeting a draft work plan identifying the areas the Committee should focus on. To assist the Committee in its future deliberations staff were requested to provide information on:

- Statutory roles of local government/discretionary activities.
- Central Government roles this Council is performing.
- Major projects or programmes which could be deferred, i.e. Civic Offices refurbishment, Blenheim Road.
- Areas where potential exists for duplication of effort.