

## 21. FINANCIAL PLAN AND PROGRAMME FORMAT

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Corporate Plan Output: Public Accountability	

The purpose of this report is to recommend a delay in changing the format of the Financial Plan and Programme until next year.

The Committee has previously requested that a review take place of the format of the Financial Plan and Programme and in February 2000 it was agreed that the review should take place in late 2000 and also include a format review of the Strategic Statement.

The staff remain committed to review the format of the Financial Plan and Programme but now consider that it would be better to remodel the plan after more fundamental changes in the organisational structure and the implication on outputs and outcomes have been fully resolved.

The major organisational change which has recently commenced will have impact on 14 budgets throughout the organisation and it is essential that the staff resources available in financial planning are available to ensure that the process of this change is handled carefully so that we ensure that the structure of the budget remains soundly based. To add a change to the format of the published plan on top of this is more than can reasonably be handled with existing resources especially given the need to assist in the Funding Policy review and updating of the Long Term Financial Strategy which are statutory requirements for this year.

The process of publishing the Financial Plan and Programme is complex and constricted by tight timetables. It is a major task and any change in its structure will inevitably affect the established and proven process which produces the detailed underlying data.

It is my view that it would be unwise to change the published plan format in the same year that the staff are also having to deal with a range of other priority tasks.

**Recommendation:** That the review of the format of the published Financial Plan and Programme be delayed until 2001.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.