

Key Point/Checklist/ Recommendation.	Council Position	Action/Response	Date	Lead Officer
<b>Is there a clear risk and evidence-based approach to cost reduction within public bodies?</b>	All services have been subject to review as part of the 3 year service review programme which has set targets for cost reduction of 15% and 20%.	The current challenging financial environment will continue for the medium term and the Council will need to consider how best to address this challenge for the period beyond the current 3 year budget whilst also meeting the requirement for 2% efficiency savings each year. Proposals on this will need to be developed for the next round of planning and budgeting post the 2012 elections.	31/5/12	Head of Strategic Finance
<b>Is there a clear budget-setting plan which focuses on priority outcomes?</b>	Budgets are allocated to service outcomes and corporate outcomes. This allows the budget for each outcome to be established	The process of mapping costs and budget to both service and corporate outcomes could be refined further. Improvements to this will be investigated and considered as part of future budget preparation – not 2012/13.	30/6/12	Head of Strategic Finance
<b>Are public bodies generating sufficient information linking productivity, service quality and costs to help understand the links between inputs, outputs and outcomes?</b>	Service scorecards consider performance against outcomes and budget. Benchmarking of cost and results has been included as part of service reviews,	The current approach is a starter and ongoing development of the PPMF will look at improving the links between productivity, service quality and costs.	30/9/12	Head of Strategic Finance
<b>Is sufficient attention given to setting clear baselines covering costs, productivity and</b>	Baseline positions have been set as part of service reviews but there is scope to be clearer about how efficiency and productivity is base	Develop proposals for 2012/13 financial year.	31/3/12	Head of Strategic Finance & Head of Improvement and HR

<b>outcomes against which increased efficiency can be measured?</b>	lined, measured and monitored.			
<b>Are benchmarking programmes being developed to allow your organisation to compare its costs and performance with other private and public organisations?</b>	Benchmarking of cost and results has been included as part of service reviews, Scorecards allow for a benchmark level of performance to be entered.	Whilst there is significant benchmarking undertaken it would be easier to demonstrate the extent of this and the impact it has if a more coordinated approach was in place. This would allow service to be clear about what was being benchmarked, the results coming from benchmarking and the improvement plans developed. This could be linked to annual performance reviews and service improvement plans etc.	31/3/12	Head of Strategic Finance & Head of Improvement and HR
<b>Is sufficient money being spent on asset maintenance and renewal such that the value of public assets is being sustained?</b>	Services prepare service asset management plans each year as part of the capital planning process. These consider issues of suitability, condition and asset performance. Any red risks in terms of asset management are highlighted as part of that process.	The Council should continue to consider the levels of capital investment and how best that is allocated to address asset sustainability as part of the planning and budget cycle each year. No additional action is proposed at this stage although data collection will improve over time.	N/A	N/A
<b>Less capital funding may result in the construction of new assets using private finance. How much of future revenue budgets is prudent to use on annual unitary payments?</b>	Any investment in assets whether in terms of operating costs or financing costs creates a long term commitment. The overall budget process and business case approach to capital planning allows consideration of these rather than just simply setting a certain limit for annual unitary charge budgets.	No additional action proposed although the Council should be clear about the allocation of funding between operating costs and financing costs as part of each planning and budget cycle	N/A	N/A