

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A NON-KEY DECISION
CABINET**

ITEM:	BUDGET CONSULTATION
Members Present:	Councillors RJ Phillips (Chairman), Mrs O Barnett, P Edwards, Mrs J French, GV Hyde, C Mayson, DW Rule, B Wilcox, M Wilson
Date of Decision:	15th July, 2004
Purpose:	To approve a detailed programme for consultation during 2004-05 on the Corporate Plan for 2005-2008 and budgets for 2005-2006.
Decision:	That the programme for consultation during 2004-05 on the Corporate Plan for 2005-2008 and budgets for 2005-2006 as detailed in the report be approved subject to further investigation of the SIMALTO consultation process.
Reasons for the Decision:	There is a strong expectation from the Government that councils should communicate effectively with the public on budget matters.
Options Considered:	The Council could conduct budget consultation solely on the lines it has used in the past. However, while these can be expected to continue to be useful in informing strategic choices and as essential to the Council's two-way communications with the public, they have limited value in assisting the Council to determine detailed annual budget allocations.
Declaration of Interest:	None.

RJ PHILLIPS:..... Date:.....
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL