

Response to recommendations from General Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Recommendation		Response
1.	The executive be recommended to work with Parish and Town Councils to explore options for service delivery;	In respect of items 1,2 and 4 , these were addressed to the executive who have reported back to GOSC their intention to develop closer working with Parishes, liaise with MP's to champion the County's issues and provide a response to the issues raised during budget consultation (summary provided to GOSC at December meeting).
2.	The executive be recommended to make representations to local MPs and others to ensure that the voice of the County is being heard in relation to the government's business rate proposals and the views of local MPs reported.	See above
3.	The clarity of the budget report should be reviewed and officers requested that the report should be amended to include detail of gross income and expenditure, consistency of terminology, virements over the year to identify actual expenditure, analysis of the use of the Rural Services Delivery Grant, clarity over income.	c) The clarity of budget report was reviewed and amended to ensure consistency and clarity in future presentations and reports. Further detail of gross income and expenditure will be provided in the budget book summary which will be prepared once all information on grants is confirmed with government. The impact of this review was provided to GOSC at their December meeting
4.	The executive be asked to take full account of the consultation on the budget and reflect the views expressed in their budget proposals, indicating in the next report back to the overview and scrutiny committees the extent to which the consultation findings had influenced budget proposals, and, if the findings had been discounted, the rationale for taking that course.	See answer to 1 above.

<p>5.</p>	<p>The reconciliation showing the changes between the report made to the Committee in November and that presented in December be circulated to members of the Committee for information.</p>	<p>Report submitted to committee January 2017.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Officers be requested to explore the principle of facilitating increased engagement with parish Councils and communities and revenue funding to support invest to save proposals in support of the delivery of some services in place of Herefordshire Council could be explored as part of the future review of the MTFS.</p>	<p>It was clarified at the meeting that an “invest to save” proposal could be considered at any time even though a specific “pot” was not allocated.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>If a substantive issue relevant to the budget warranting further discussion with the Committee emerged a further report be made to the Committee’s meeting in January for its consideration.</p>	<p>Included in the reconciliation referred to in 4 above, reference was also made to the changes in the Autumn Statement in respect of New Homes Bonus and Adult Social Care Grant. In addition the report clarified the flexibility provided around the adult social care precept being up to 3% per annum subject to a maximum of 6% over three years</p>