



## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**6 MARCH 2012**

### **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

#### **- PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Environment Scrutiny Panel.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the updated position.

#### **BACKGROUND**

3. Since the last update to OSB, the Environment Scrutiny Panel has met once, on 9 February 2012.
4. At that meeting, Members considered a draft final report on the scrutiny topic of highway and carriageway works by the utilities companies. This is included elsewhere on the OSB meeting agenda.
5. The panel also considered information from the Assistant Director, Environment, on the impact of current and proposed budget reductions on front line services, service standards and staffing.
6. It was explained that, in 2012-13, the Environment Department would need to make savings of £1.5m in respect of Environment Services, plus a further £800k in Community Protection.

7. Management costs have been significantly reduced through early retirement/voluntary redundancy. While performance and service standards would continue to be monitored on a monthly basis, it was inevitable that this level of budget reduction would affect future service provision.
8. The panel is to be kept informed as budget reduction proposals are finalised.
9. The scrutiny panel is next scheduled to meet on 5 March 2012 and will begin examination of the new scrutiny topic of maintenance of natural woodland and highway trees.

**COUNCILLOR BOB KERR**

**CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

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