

Report

Report to:	Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum
Date of Meeting:	29 September 2009
Report by:	Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Forum Powers and Responsibilities
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide members with the background to the establishment of the Forum together with confirmation of the powers and responsibilities that the Forum has.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Forum is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council's Improvement Plan which had been developed in order to respond effectively to issues highlighted in the report on the Audit of Best Value and Community Planning of South Lanarkshire Council sets out a specific action to *"make scrutiny and decision making more open and transparent by implementing good practice guidance and by having scrutiny forums in public"*.
- 3.2. The Executive Committee at its meeting held on 8 July 2009 approved a report proposing a number of amendments to the Council's member scrutiny forum arrangements. One of the proposals involved combining the former Capital Budget, Revenue Budget and the Trading Services Scrutiny Forums into a single scrutiny forum.
- 3.3. One of the key changes to note is that the new Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum will be held in public. Other changes related to the membership which was to be drawn from outwith the Executive Committee and the appointment of a Chair from the opposition groups.
- 3.4. The report to the Executive Committee also outlined the powers and responsibilities of the Forum. The Terms of Reference for this Forum, as agreed by the Executive Committee, are attached for members' information.

4. Employee Implications

4.1. There are no employee implications arising from this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. Other Implications

6.1. There are no other implications arising from this report.

7. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

7.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained in this report.

7.2 The Councils Standards and Procedures Forum provided the mechanism for consultation with Group Leaders. Consultation has taken place with business managers from political groups in relation to memberships and other arrangements for the new Forum.

Robert McIlwain
Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

16 September 2009

Link(s) to Council Objectives
Accountable, effective and efficient

Previous References
Executive Committee of 11 July 2009 (Paragraph 11 refers)

List of Background Papers
Report to Exec Committee 1 July 2009

Contact for Further Information
If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-
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Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum

1 Powers and Responsibilities

- 1.1 To scrutinise critically all of the Council's budgets and make recommendations, where appropriate, on any redeployment of resources.
- 1.2 To consider issues arising from trends in Service spending.
- 1.3 To raise any issues in respect of the Council's financial management arrangements.
- 1.4 To review financial and operational progress on the Council's capital programme.
- 1.5 To consider the preparation of future years' capital programmes.
- 1.6 To research alternative funding methods.
- 1.7 To review financial and operational progress by the Council's Trading Services.
- 1.8 To consider any relevant policy matters in the operation of the Council's Trading Services

2 Membership

- 2.1 9 Members (Political balance: 4 Labour; 3 SNP; 1 Con; 1 Ind/Lib Dem). Membership would be drawn from members not on the Executive Committee with the exception of the Chair who would be an opposition councillor
- 2.2 Quorum – 3.

3 Meeting Arrangements and Practice

- 3.1 From April to August, to meet every 8 weeks and from September to March, to meet every 4 weeks.
- 3.2 To report through the Executive Committee.