

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY MEETING)**

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20, 2004

URGENT QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY GROUP LEADERS

**1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
PETER JOHN**

How is the recent resignation of the director of finance likely to impact upon the preparations for the budget process 2005/06?

RESPONSE

The budget process is lead by the executive with the support of the chief executive, chief officer team, financial management services and corporate strategy. It is a robust process that is now embedded in the organisation and has been praised in recent Audit Commission inspections. The budget process is a year long cycle and its success is not dependent on any one person.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN

Having read the answer the leader has given I am tempted to ask as my supplemental why we needed a director of finance at all but I would like to ask in fact does the leader consider that Mr Bishop's resignation after such a short period may be symptomatic of more serious problems within the council's senior management structure?

RESPONSE

No, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank Stephen for his service over the last few months. We wish him well in the future and I think that is what I want to say.