**PRESSNOTE**

**8 January 2016**

**A WISE Budget for Pune**

The Pune WISE Budgeting project has been taken up by PMC to make the budget more scientific and linked to the development needs of the city.

WISE, which stands for Ward Infrastructure Services and Environment (WISE), is a method of grading different areas of the city on the basis of about 26 indicators that include population, area, slum population, status of infrastructure and services related to solid waste management, street lights, roads, sanitation, drainage, and public amenities. A ward which has larger area or slum population and is deficient in infrastructure and services will thus get higher budget allocations so that the deficiencies can be overcome.

The WISE information can also be used by citizens in the Participatory Budgeting process. Citizens can come to know the status of infrastructure and services in their ward as well as the budget allocations made. This information will be helpful to citizens to identify meaningful projects. Citizens can also undertake social audit of the projects in their neighbourhoods.

The PMC Accounts Dept has also taken up a process of budget simplification and systematization. The major projects in the core service areas will be presented with details of outcomes expected from making these investments. For example, by investing in various public transportation projects, the major outcomes we expect would be that more people will be able to travel by public transport, travel time and congestion will reduce, and we have will have better air quality and environment.

Centre for Environment Education, which is a centre of excellence of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt of India is assisting the PMC in this effort. The aim is to help make the municipal budget more efficient and effective for sustainable development of the city.