

**COUNCIL – 1 MARCH 2018**

**AGENDA ITEM 10 – SERVICE & FINANCIAL PLANNING 2018/19- 2019/20**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RECOMMENDATIONS – E1**

1. To agree a two year service and financial planning strategy linked to the period of the CSR and the local authority funding settlement from the Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government.
2. To reaffirm the previous decision that Council Tax should be increased by 3.2% (made up of 2% in respect of the Government's Adult Social Care Precept and a general Council Tax increase of 1.2%) in both 2018/19 and 2019/20.
3. To invest a further £2.226m (the equivalent of a 3.7% council tax increase) into Adult Social Care services in 2018/19 rising to a cumulative ongoing £3.509m new investment in 2020/21. In total the Council will be investing an additional £6.5m in to Adult Social Care over the next 3 years.
4. To invest £1.9m in Children's Safeguarding & Early Help services in 2018/19 and £0.75m in 2019/20, a cumulative increase in budget of £2.65m.
5. To earmark £1m of usable one-off resources to create an additional one-off budget contingency in 2018/19 to be available to support the full implementation of the cost improvement plans for Children's Safeguarding & Early Help and Adult Social Care.
6. To make additional budget savings totalling £6.852m in 2018/19 rising to a cumulative total of £12.580m in 2019/20 as detailed in Appendices 4 and 5.
7. To take a measured approach to the use of available one-off resources of £3.334m in 2018/19 and £3.157m in 2019/20 to seek to cushion the impact of continuing Government cuts in council funding.
8. To note the commitment to continue to work with partner organisations, including Town & Parish Councils and Voluntary Sector and Community Groups to seek to identify ways to mitigate the impact of some of the cuts to services that we can no longer afford and to note the availability of the £744,000 Partnership Capacity Fund.
9. In order to further support these discussions and the delivery of other future savings to approve the transfer of the £1m superannuation benefit referred to in section 5.1 the Financial Management report, also on this agenda, to the Invest to Save/Capacity Fund.
10. To approve the Pay Policy for 2018/19 included as Appendix 3 which has already been approved by the Personnel Committee.

11. To approve the overall service and financial planning strategy set out in this report and the base budget in Appendix 7.
12. To approve the policy framework for Reserves and Balances outlined in Appendix 9.
13. To note the CFO's robustness statement in Appendix 11.
14. To approve the Risk Register included at appendix 16
15. To approve the revenue implications of the medium term capital programme for the period 2017/18 – 2020/21 set out in the Capital Programme report also on this agenda.
16. That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Finance & Human Resources to action any virements required following the final allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant and other related Grants as long as they are within the budget and policy framework.
17. That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Early Help & Support, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care, to enter into appropriate Section 256 and Section 75 Agreements under the NHS Act 2006 (as amended).
18. That the Assistant Director: Legal, Procurement & Commissioning be authorised to execute all necessary contract documentation including the affixing of the common seal of the council as appropriate to enable the council to enter into appropriate Section 256 and Section 75 Agreements under the NHS Act 2006.
19. That should any late changes be announced as part of the final Revenue Support Grant settlement, authority to adjust the level of the planned use of one-off resources in 2018/19 to compensate be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Council Finance, Commercial Services & Economic Development.
20. That this suite of service and financial planning reports be approved as the Council's Efficiency Strategy for 2018/19, including the summary document at Appendix 15, to enable new capital receipts generated in the six year period starting 1 April 2016 to be used to fund the revenue costs of reform as assumed throughout these reports.
21. To note the projections for the potential budget gap in 2020/21 and to start work now in order to identify options for how this will be bridged as these savings will be more challenging than those previously agreed by the Council given that they come on top of the £110m of savings already made and may therefore have a significant lead time before spending reductions are delivered.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS – E2**

1. To approve the report and associated capital estimates for 2017/18 and 2018/19 – 2020/21, which incorporates the Capital Strategy, the Capital Programme (Annex I), the Planned Building Maintenance Programme (Annex II), and Asset Management Plan (Annex III) and the three year Highways and Transport capital investment programme (Annex IV).
2. To delegate authority to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Employment to deliver the planned programme of works within the Asset Management Plan and to the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services to deliver the Highways and Transport capital investment programme in line with the approved budgets with any variations or changes to schemes in these programmes, that remain within overall approved budgets, after consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Members.
3. To note that following changes to the Prudential Code in late December, the Council is required to approve a summary Capital Strategy before the end of 2018/19. This will be presented to Full Council for consideration and approval during 2018/19 once final guidance has been received.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS – E3**

1. To note the treasury management activities for the first half year,
2. To note the Treasury Management Policy Statement (Appendix A) and
3. To approve the Treasury Strategy, including the Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19 together with the associated treasury Prudential Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, which will apply from 2018/19 onwards.
4. To grant delegated authority to the Council's Section 151 Officer, after consultation with the Chair of Audit Committee and the Cabinet Member for Finance, Commercial Services & Economic Development to make any amendments required arising from the proposed changes to the Prudential Framework of Capital Finance.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS – E4**

1. To approve the prudential indicators proposed in this report as part of setting the budget for 2018/19.
2. To delegate authority to the Council's Section 151 Officer, after consultation with the Chair of the Audit Committee and the Cabinet Member for Finance, Commercial Services & Economic Development to make any amendments required arising from the potential changes to the Prudential Code for Capital Finance

## **RECOMMENDATION – E5**

1. To approve the formal resolutions to determine the levels of Council Tax for 2018/19 as detailed in the report.