

COUNCIL – 28 FEBRUARY 2019
SERVICE & FINANCIAL PLANNING 2019/20- 2021/22
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS – E1

1. To agree the service and financial planning strategy for 2019/20 set out in this set of reports, linked to the period of the current Comprehensive Spending Review, the local authority funding settlement from the Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government and the uncertainties surrounding future financial arrangements for local authorities.
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 £0.842m in to Adult Social Care services, which is over and above the £0.77m built in to the budget model for 2019/20 for Adult Social Care in March 2018.
4. To invest £3.296m more in to Children's Safeguarding & Family Support to protect vulnerable children. This investment comes on top of £0.75m for children's safeguarding built in to the budget model for 2019/20 in March 2018. To invest a further £0.847m in a contingency specifically to address any further cost pressures facing these services during 2019/20.
5. To invest £0.330m to be able to maintain existing subsidised bus routes.
6. To continue work to deliver the budget savings totalling £6.064m in 2019/20 that were approved at Council in March 2018.
7. To take a measured approach to the use of available one-off resources of £2.961m in 2019/20 to seek to cushion the impact of continuing Government cuts in council funding and allow the level of investment required in Adult Social Care and Children's Safeguarding.
8. 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 £0.6m Partnership Capacity Fund.
9. To approve the Local Tax Support Scheme set out in Appendix 15.
10. To approve the Pay Policy for 2019/20 included as Appendix 3.
11. To approve the overall service and financial planning strategy set out in this report and the base budget in Appendix 6.

12. To approve the policy framework for Reserves and Balances outlined in Appendix 9.
13. To note the CFO's robustness statement in Appendix 10.
14. To approve the Risk Register included at Appendix 14.
15. To approve the revenue implications of the medium term capital programme for the period 2018/19 - 2021/22 set out in the Capital Strategy and Programme reports 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: Adult Social Care, 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: Governance, 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 this suite of service and financial planning reports be approved as the Council's Efficiency Strategy for 2019/20, including the summary document at Appendix 13, 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.
20. To note the initial projections for the potential budget gap through to 2021/22 and to start work in order to identify options for how this could potentially be bridged.
21. To approve the Council Tax Support Scheme Policy for 2019/20 attached in Appendix A.
22. That the Council Tax Support Hardship scheme continues with £30k funding for the financial year 2019/20.

RECOMMENDATIONS – E2

1. To approve the Capital Strategy for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

2. To approve the report and associated capital estimates for 2018/19 and 2019/20 – 2021/22, 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 two year Highways and Transport capital investment programme (Annex IV).
3. To delegate authority to the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Employment and Assistant Director: Commercial Services to deliver the planned programme of works within the Asset Management Plan and to the Assistant Director: Customer & Neighbourhood 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.
4. To approve the planned building capital maintenance programme for 2019/20 as identified as part of this report and agree that officers may enter into any contracts necessary to deliver the works in accordance with the requirements of the Contract Procedure Rules.
5. To approve the planned Highways and Transport capital investment programme for 2019/20 – 20/21.
6. To delegate responsibility for agreeing any variations or changes to schemes in the capital programme that remain within overall approved budget limits to the Assistant Director Customer & Neighbourhoods Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Roads and Broadband.

RECOMMENDATIONS – E3

1. To approve the Investment Strategy for 2019/20.
2. To note the treasury management activities for the first half year.
3. To note the Treasury Management Policy Statement (Appendix A).
4. To approve the Treasury Strategy, including the Annual Investment Strategy for 2019/20 together with the associated treasury Prudential Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, which will apply from 2019/20 onwards.

RECOMMENDATIONS – E4

1. To approve the prudential indicators proposed in this report as part of setting the budget for 2019/20.

RECOMMENDATION – E5

1. To approve the formal resolutions to determine the levels of Council Tax for 2019/20 as detailed in the report.