

**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

1 December 2023

**Medium Term Financial Plan (14)
2024/25 to 2027/28**



Report of Corporate Management Team

Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB) with an update on the development of the Budget 2024/25 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (14) 2024/25 to 2027/28. The attached 11 October Cabinet report includes updated financial planning assumptions which have affected some figures previously reported.
- 2 COSMB prioritise scrutiny of the MTFP and budget as part of its work programme.

Executive summary

- 3 The report to 11 October Cabinet sets out the plan for the MTFP (14) covering the four year period from 2024/25 to 2027/28.

Recommendation(s)

- 4 Members are asked to consider and comment upon the October Cabinet report on the MTFP (14) 2024/25 to 2027/28.

Background

- 5 The Council is continuing to operate in a period of significant financial uncertainty, particularly from 2025/26 onwards. When the 2023/24 budget was approved on 22 February 2023, the council was concerned about the ongoing and consequential impact of high levels of inflation and service demand alongside other concerns which continue to impact significantly upon financial planning with increases in bank base rates, expected pay settlements for our employees and the impact of future National Living Wage increases all forecast to increase pressure upon future years budgets.
- 6 Once again, the Looked After Children's budget is under pressure due to increased demand and, significantly, increased complexity of need as we emerge from the pandemic driving forecast overspends in the current year that are forecast to continue into next year which must be accommodated.
- 7 All these issues are making financial planning difficult and are resulting in a deterioration in the forecast MTFP(14) financial position as compared to that reported to Cabinet on 12 July 2023.
- 8 The Cabinet report includes information on:
 - (a) A review of MTFP Forecasts;
 - (b) Savings forecasts for 2024/25;
 - (c) An Equality Impact Assessment of the MTFP including impact assessments for the 2024/25 savings proposals across all service groupings;
 - (d) An adjusted MTFP (14) 2024/25 TO 2027/28 forecast summary;
 - (e) An MTFP Risk Assessment setting out key risks throughout the MTFP(14) period.

Background papers

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

The report sets out the arrangements to scrutinise MTFP (14) proposals.

Consultation

The report includes information on the consultation process.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Equality considerations are built into the approach to developing MTFP (14) as a key element of the process.

Climate Change

The impact of final budget decisions will take into account climate change impacts

Human Rights

Any human rights issues will be considered for any detailed MTFP (14) proposals as they are developed and decisions made to take these forward.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

The savings proposals in MTFP (14) will impact upon employees.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.

**Appendix 2: Medium Term Financial Plan (14), 2024/25 - 2027/28 -
report to 11 October Cabinet**

Attached as a separate document.