

**Corporate Issues
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

26th January 2016



Medium Term Financial Plan Reports

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CIOSC) with a summary of two recent Cabinet reports relating to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) that will be presented at the Committee's meeting by Jeff Garfoot, Head of Finance.

Background

- 2 In 2015, Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) requested that CIOSC take the lead in scrutinising MTFP proposals, with members of OSMB i.e. Chairs and Vice-chairs and minority party leaders invited to attend. Initial discussions were held at the OSMB and CIOSC meetings in September 2015 on the initial MTFP report.
- 3 The next report, 'Medium Term Financial Plan (6) 2016/17-2019/20 and 2016/17 Budget Update' (attached at Appendix 2), was presented to Cabinet on 16th December 2015, and a subsequent report, Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20 and 2016/17 Budget (attached at Appendix 3) was presented to Cabinet on 13th January 2016.
- 4 In summary, the December Cabinet report provided information on:
 - the Government's Spending Review published on 25 November 2015
 - Council Tax and Business Rate arrangements
 - the Better Care Fund, Public Health Grant and New Homes Bonus
 - Schools and Education
 - Apprentice Levy
 - 2016/17 Budget update
 - Savings Proposals 2016/17 and 2017/18
 - Budget Consultation Process
 - Equality Impact Assessments
- 5 The January Cabinet report provided information on:
 - the provisional Local Government Finance settlement (the actual settlement will be published in late January/early February)
 - impact on the 2016/17 Budget
 - Fairness of the Settlement
 - Medium Term Financial Plan
 - Business Rate Retention
 - Council Budget Consultation

- 6 Within both reports an Executive Summary highlights the current financial challenges faced by the Council and the Head of Corporate Finance will be in attendance to present and respond to Member questions.

Recommendation

- 7 Members are asked to note the content of the Cabinet reports and provide comments to formulate an Overview and Scrutiny Committee response to Cabinet.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Financial implications are identified within Appendix 1 of both Cabinet reports (16th December 2015 and 13th January 2016).

Staffing

Staffing implications are identified within Appendix 1 of both of the Cabinet reports.

Risk

Risk implications are identified within Appendix 1 of Cabinet reports.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Equality considerations are built into the approach to developing MTFP(6) as a key element of the process.

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Human Rights

Any Human Rights issues will be considered for any detailed MTFP(6) and Council Plan proposals as they are developed and decisions made to take these forward.

Consultation

The reports include information on the consultation process.

Procurement

None

Disability Issues

All requirements will be considered as part of the equality process followed as part of MTFP(6) planning.

Legal Implications

Legal implications are identified within Appendix 1 of both Cabinet reports.