

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

12 February 2016

## Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20 (MTFP6) and 2016/17 Budget



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### Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

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#### Purpose of the Report

- 1 To inform Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CIOSC) Members of the Cabinet report (17 February 2016) that provides comprehensive financial information to enable Cabinet to agree a 2016/17 balanced revenue budget, an outline Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP (6)) for 2016/17 to 2019/20 and a fully funded capital programme for recommendation to the County Council meeting on 24 February 2016 (full report attached at Appendix 2).

#### Background

- 2 Scrutiny members have been engaged in the development of this year's MTFP, through a series of scrutiny meetings and member seminars. CIOSC were commissioned by OSMB to take a lead in scrutinising MTFP proposals, with members of OSMB (chairs/vice chairs and minority parties) invited to attend. The following sessions have been held:
  - 18 September 2015 OSMB – scrutiny of 15 July 2015 MTFP (6) Cabinet report (CIOSC commissioned to take a lead)
  - 28 September 2015 CIOSC – scrutiny of 15 July 2015 MTFP (6) Cabinet report
  - 26 January 2016 – a joint meeting of CIOSC and OSMB to consider the Cabinet reports of 16 December 2015 and 13 January 2016, and to give Members the opportunity for full consideration of the draft savings proposals, with the scrutiny response being fed back to the Cabinet meeting on 17 February 2016.
- 3 The attached Cabinet report of 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 presents additional information regarding the MTFP in relation to the final settlement, specific grants and the capital programme, consultation and the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) process, and provides a further opportunity for Members to comment prior to full Council.

#### Recommendation

- 4 Members are asked to:
  - a) note and comment upon the contents of the attached Cabinet report of 17 February 2016, prior to full Council on 24 February 2016.
  - b) put forward final suggestions as part of the scrutiny response to Council on 24 February 2016.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications (taken from the 17th February 2016 Cabinet report)**

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**Finance** – The report sets out recommendations on the 2016/17 Budget and for the MTFP(6) period 2016/17 – 2019/20.

**Staffing** – The impact of the MTFP upon staffing is detailed within the report.

**Risk** – A robust approach to Risk Assessment across the MTFP process has been followed including individual risk assessment of savings plans.

**Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty** - Full information on equality and diversity is contained within the report.

**Accommodation** – the Council's Corporate Asset Management Plan is aligned to the corporate priorities contained within the Council Plan. Financing for capital investment priorities is reflected in the MTFP Model.

**Crime and Disorder** – It is recognised that the changes proposed in this report could have a negative impact on crime and disorder in the county. However, the Council will continue to work with the Policy and others through the safe Durham Partnership on strategic crime and disorder and to identify local problems and target resources to them.

**Human Rights** – Any human rights issues will be considered for each of the proposals as they are developed and decisions made to take these forward. There are no human right implications from the information within the report.

**Consultation** – Full information on the MTFP (6) consultation process are contained in the report.

**Procurement** – Wherever possible procurement savings are reflected in service groupings savings plans.

**Disability Issues** – All requirements will be assessed in Equality Impact Assessments.

**Legal Implications** – The Council has a statutory responsibility to set a balanced budget for 2016/17. It also has a fiduciary duty not to waste public resources.