

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee

13 February 2017



Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 to 2019/20 and Revenue and Capital Budget 2017/18

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

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 (8 February 2017) that provides comprehensive financial information to enable Cabinet to agree a 2017/18 balanced revenue budget, an outline Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP (7)) for 2017/18 to 2019/20 and a fully funded capital programme for recommendation to the County Council meeting on 22 February 2017 (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. CIOSC were commissioned by OSMB to take a lead in scrutinising MTFP proposals, with members of OSMB (chairs/vice chairs and minority party leaders) invited to attend. The following sessions have been held:
 - 27 September 2016 - Special joint meeting of OSMB and CIOSC – scrutiny of 20 July 2016 MTFP (6) Cabinet report (CIOSC commissioned to take a lead).
 - 25 November 2016 – Special Joint CIOSC/OSMB to consider the updated MTFP model, consultation process, and Autumn Statement headlines. Feedback from scrutiny included in the 14 December 2016 Cabinet report.
 - 26 January 2016 – Joint meeting of CIOSC/OSMB to consider the Cabinet report of 14 December 2016, with the scrutiny response being fed back to 8 February 2017 Cabinet meeting.
 - 13 Feb 2017 – Joint meeting of OSMB/CIOSC – scrutiny of 8 February 2017 MTFP (7) Cabinet report.
- 3 The attached Cabinet report of 8 February 2017 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 8 February 2017, prior to full Council on 22 February 2016.
 - b) put forward final suggestions as part of the scrutiny response to Council on 22 February 2017.

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Appendix 1: Implications (taken from the 8 February 2017 Cabinet report)

Finance – The report sets out recommendations on the 2017/18 Budget and for the MTFP(7) period 2017/18 – 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(7) 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 2017/18. It also has a fiduciary duty not to waste public resources.