

THE EXECUTIVE

16 FEBRUARY 2010

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES

This report is submitted under Agenda Item 9. The Chair will be asked to decide if it can be considered at the meeting under the provisions of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 as a matter of urgency in order to avoid any delay in the setting of the MTFS as part of the Council's overall budgetary framework for 2010/11.

Title: Council Plan Update 2010/11 incorporating the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2010/11 to 2012/13	For Decision
Summary: <p>This report sets out the draft Council Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).</p> <p>In the light of the forthcoming election, it was felt that significant changes to the Council Plan would be premature and therefore the existing plan has been extended with a light touch refresh for 2010-11 to reflect progress made. This report contains a textual version of the updated Plan. Once approved, the Council Plan incorporating the MTFS will be available as an interactive web document rather than a text document.</p> <p>The Council Plan articulates the way in which the Council plans to deliver members priorities over the next few years and the MTFS enables the Council to plan its finances into the future. The MTFS presents the financial impact of all the factors that influence the Council's budget over a period of time. The MTFS is informed by current and future policy as stated within the Council Plan and links to other strategies (e.g. Workforce Strategy). The MTFS also models the cost of services, the financial impact of risks we are aware of, investments we need to make and identifies our funding gaps.</p> <p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
Recommendation(s) <p>The Executive is asked to recommend the Assembly to approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) The Council Plan as set out at Section 1 of Annex 1 to this report;(ii) The MTFS as set out at sections 2 to 13 of Annex 1 to this report which includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The Capital Strategy as set out in section 8b. The Reserves and Contingency Strategy as set out in section 12c. The budget options for 2010/11 and future years as set out in Appendix A to Annex 1d. The investment decisions and assumptions as set out in Appendix B to Annex 1	

Reason(s)

The Council Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy set out the overarching principles by which the organisation plans its services over the medium term.

Implications**Financial**

This report is in respect of the Council Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy, and sets out the principles for the Council's financial strategy. These are included throughout the report.

Legal

Detailed comments appear in the reports on the budget, Treasury Management Strategy, Fees and Charges for 2010-2011 and the capital programme for 2010 – 2011 which bear upon the MTFS. There are no further comments in relation to this report.

Contractual

No specific implications.

Risk Management

The Council Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy must have regard for risks associated with the delivery of the Council's aims and objectives both in terms of policy and in terms of financial implications. Links to risk management are included in section 10 of this report.

Staffing

There are clear staffing implications of the Council Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy. Links to the workforce strategy are set out in section 10 of this report.

Customer Impact

One of the key risks around setting the financial strategy and the savings options that underpin this is the impact on customers. A review of the impact of each savings option has been undertaken in respect of customer impact, risks have been identified, and mitigating actions are being put in place by the relevant services.

Safeguarding Children

Implications for safeguarding children only to the extent which specific savings options impact on areas that deliver services supporting the Council's safeguarding agenda. An impact assessment has been carried out on these specific savings.

Crime and Disorder

Implications for crime and disorder only to the extent which specific savings options impact on areas that deliver services supporting this specific agenda. An impact assessment has been carried out on these specific savings.

Property/Assets

Links to the Council's Property Asset Management Plan are set out in section 10.

Options appraisal

Not applicable.

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Consultees

The following were consulted in the preparation of this report:

Councillor L Smith, Leader of the Council
Councillor Bramley, Cabinet Members for Finance and Human Resources
Rob Whiteman – Chief Executive
Corporate Management Team
Tracie Evans – Corporate Director of Finance
Winston Brown – Legal Partner
Sue Lees – Divisional Director of Asset Management and Capital Delivery
Heather Wills – Head of Community Cohesion and Equalities
Sandy Hamberger – Audit and Risk Controller
Guy Swindle – Head of Strategy and Performance
Jonathan Bunt – Corporate Financial Controller

Background Papers

- Information from Department of Communities and Local Government
- Budget working papers
- Reports to member bodies