

Executive Scrutiny Board 12 December 2017

Report of the Interim Director of Finance

Cabinet Budget Proposals 2018/19

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council Cabinet published budget proposals for 2018/19 for consultation on 2 November 2017. The Council is required to find £9.6m of savings in 2018/19 to balance the revenue budget and increase council tax by 4.99%. These proposals will seek the approval of Council at its meeting on 24 January 2018. The budget forms part of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 – 2020/21, which is summarised in the consultation document.
- 1.2 The Budget Consultation document can be found at Appendix 2 of this report and can also be accessed on the Council's Committee Management Information System (CMIS).

RECOMMENDATION

2.1 To consider and comment on the budget proposals.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 To ensure members are aware of the 2018/19 Budget Proposals and to give scrutiny members an opportunity to respond to the budget consultation and make recommendations on the proposals.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The budget consultation document provides an overview of the Cabinet's proposals to balance its revenue budget for 2018/19, the capital programme for that year and the impact of these proposals on its Treasury Management position.
- 4.2 The Government's Autumn Budget did not indicate any substantive changes which would alter significantly the Cabinets budget proposals.
- 4.3 The Office of Budget Responsibility has updated its key forecasts in respect of the economic outlook for the UK economy and the associated uncertainty arising from the continuing Brexit negotiations.

4.4 The proposals may change as a result of the consultation process.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 While alternative approaches have been considered the Cabinet believes that the budget proposals provide a deliverable and financially balanced budget for Council to consider and approve.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s)	Mark Taylor – Interim Director of Finance
Other(s)	David Walsh – Head of Democracy
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Background papers:	Budget Consultation 2018/19
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 The Council is required to find £9.6m of savings in 2018/19 to balance the revenue budget and increase council tax by 4.99%. These proposals will seek the approval of Council at its meeting on 24 January 2018. The budget forms part of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22, which is summarised in the consultation document.

Legal

- 2.1 Part 4 of the Council's Constitution (Rules of Procedure) set out a series of Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules which require the Council Cabinet's initial budget proposals to be referred to the relevant overview and scrutiny board for further advice and consideration.
- 2.2 There are a number of legal risks associated with the proposed savings and these will be considered on a case by case basis as the circumstances arise.

Personnel

3.1 The savings proposals include a potential reduction in our staffing numbers the impact of which is yet to be fully assessed.

IT

4.1 The implications on the IT service are included in the budget consultation and in the background papers provided as part of the budget setting process.

Equalities Impact

5.1 None arising directly from this report. Formal Equality Impact Assessments have been rpeared for the savings proposals and these will be updated following the completion of the consultation period.

Health and Safety

6.1 None arising directly from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 There are no direct implications arising at this stage as a consultation report but there will potentially be significant environmental sustainability implications when the saving proposals are implemented.

Property and Asset Management

8.1 These are reflected in the revenue and capital budget proposals.

Risk Management

9.1 The key risks associated with the budget proposals are set out in the budget consultation document.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 The budget proposals provide sufficient resources to meet the Councils core objectives and pledges.