

Committee: Scrutiny

Agenda Item

Date: 9 February 2016

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Title: 2016/17 Budget – covering report

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Simon Howell

Item for decision

Summary

1. The budget consists of a series of reports, all on today's agenda, as shown below. For all of the reports the Scrutiny Committee is requested to endorse the recommendation(s) to Cabinet, or suggest alternatives.

Report	Purpose	Recommendation(s)
Draft Corporate Plan (attached to this covering report – Appendix One)	To demonstrate the budget is aligned to the corporate priorities	
Equalities Impact Assessment (attached to this covering report)	To demonstrate consideration of the impact on minority groups	
Robustness of Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves Reserves Strategy	<p>A statutory report which sets out the key risks in the General Fund budget, and advice about safe levels of contingency reserves.</p> <p>This is a new report and sets out a new strategy for the reserves and details the purpose and lifespan of these reserves.</p>	<p>The Cabinet is requested to approve, for recommendation to Full Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) That the Council takes account of the advice in the report when determining the 2016/17 General Fund budget and Council Tax.b) That the Council approves the risk assessment relating to the robustness of estimates as detailed in the reportc) That the Council sets the minimum safe contingency level for 2016/17 at £1.234 million.d) That the attached Reserves Strategy is adopted.e) That the Council agrees that no transfers to or from the Working Balance should be built into the 2016/17 budget.
Medium Term Financial Strategy	Sets out a five year plan for ensuring that the General Fund remains in a stable and sustainable position, including indicative levels of Council Tax.	The Cabinet is requested to approve, for recommendation to Full Council, the Medium Term Financial Strategy as attached.

Report	Purpose	Recommendation(s)
Treasury Management Strategy	Details how cash flow will be managed, and a strategy for prudent borrowing and investment.	<p>The Cabinet is requested to approve, for recommendation to Full Council on 25 February, the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17, Appendix A. • Prudential Indicators, Appendix A1. • Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement, Appendix A2 • Economic Forecast, Appendix A3
Capital Programme	A five year plan setting out capital expenditure on the Council's assets including buildings, vehicles and ICT and the associated financing of these programmes	The Cabinet is requested to approve, for recommendation to Full Council, the Capital Programme and associated financing of the programme as set out in this report.
Housing Revenue Account Budget	<p>Covers spending plans for council housing in the district from 2016/17 with a 5 year forecast.</p> <p>The report contains proposals for increases in rents and service charges. The proposals have been endorsed by the Tenants Forum and Housing Board.</p> <p>2016/17 is the fifth year of the self-financing arrangements and the 30 year plan approved by the Council in 2012.</p>	The Cabinet is request to approve, for recommendation to Full Council the HRA Revenue Budget and 5 Year Financial Strategy.
General Fund Budget and Council Tax	Detailed budget for all services except Council Housing, and proposals for the district council share of the Council Tax bill	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Cabinet is requested to recommend that the Full Council approves the General Fund Council Tax requirement of £4,827,584 summarised in paragraphs 15 – 19. 2. The Cabinet is recommended to approve the schedule of fees and charges in Appendix F.