

Division(s): N/A

CABINET – 21 JANUARY 2020

SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING 2020/21 – 2023/24

Report by the Director of Finance and Corporate Director Customers & Organisational Development

RECOMMENDATIONS

In relation to the Corporate Plan (Annex 1);

Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to RECOMMEND Council to:

(a) approve the Corporate Plan.

In relation to the Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (Annex 2);

Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) approve the Review of Charges for 2020/21;**
- (b) approve the Financial Strategy for 2020/21;**
- (c) approve the Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy Statement 2020/21; and**
- (d) to delegate authority to the Leader of the Council, following consultation with the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make appropriate changes to the proposed budget.**

Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to RECOMMEND Council to:

- (a) approve a budget for 2020/21 and a Medium Term Financial Plan to 2023/24, based on the proposals set out in Annex 2 – Appendix 2;**
- (b) approve a council tax requirement (precept) for 2020/21;**
- (c) approve a 2020/21 council tax for band D equivalent properties; and**
- (d) approve the virement arrangements to operate within the approved budget.**

In relation to the Capital & Investment Strategy and Capital Programme (Annex 3);

Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) approve the Pupil Place Plan 2019/20 – 2023/24; and**
- (b) approve the Highways Asset Management Strategy for 2019/20 – 2023/24.**

Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to RECOMMEND Council to approve:

- (a) the Capital & Investment Strategy for 2020/21 - 2029/30 including:**
 - (i) the Investment Strategy;**

- (ii) the Prudential Indicators; and**
- (iii) the Minimum Revenue Provision Methodology Statement;**
- (b) the new capital proposals for inclusion in the Capital Programme as set out in Annex 3 – Appendix C;**
- (c) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2020/21 incorporated in the Capital & Investment Strategy;**
- (d) to continue to delegate the authority to withdraw or advance additional funds to/from external fund managers to the Treasury Management Strategy Team;**
- (e) that any further changes required to the 2020/21 Treasury Management Strategy be delegated to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance;**
- (f) the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators; and**
- (g) The Specified Investment and Non Specified Investment instruments as set out in Annex 3 - Appendix F, paragraphs 47 to 52.**

Executive Summary

1. This report is the culmination of the Service & Resource Planning process for 2020/21 to 2023/24 and sets out the Cabinet's proposed Corporate Plan and supporting budget, medium term financial plan, capital programme and supporting strategies.
2. The report is set out in three sections; the Corporate Plan; the revenue budget including the draft council tax precept for 2020/21 and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2023/24; and the Capital & Investment Strategy and Capital Programme including the Treasury Management Strategy. Information outstanding at the time of the Cabinet meeting will be reported to Council when it considers the budget on 11 February 2020.
3. Cabinet's Corporate Plan and revenue and capital budget proposals take into consideration the latest information on the council's financial position outlined in this report and comments from the Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting on 9 January 2020.
4. The public consultation on the budget closes on 29 January 2020. The budget consultation report and any changes to the proposed budget as a result of comments received will be incorporated into the Service & Resource Planning 2020/21 – 2023/24 report to Council on 11 February 2020.
5. The Final Local Government Finance settlement and confirmation of some other funding streams is still awaited, and therefore there may be further changes made to the budget proposals ahead of full Council on 11 February 2020.
6. As a consequence of relevant information to the setting of the budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan only being available after the date of this meeting, it is recommended that Cabinet delegate authority to the Leader of the Council, following consultation with the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make appropriate changes to the proposed budget.

Context/Framework for setting the 2020/21 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan

7. In order to continue to deliver for our residents and thrive into the longer term, the Council must better manage demand and be more agile to respond to the ever-changing world around us.
8. This budget provides an opportunity for us to positively step-up to the challenge and demonstrate leadership of both the place and across the wider Oxfordshire system.
9. This budget includes proposals which through investment in some exciting new approaches will allow us to redesign our services, so we can shift our emphasis into more preventative support for our residents, businesses and communities. By grasping this opportunity to invest, we can start to drive improved outcomes and thus be ambitious for Oxfordshire – while critically putting the resident at the heart of our thinking.
10. To reflect this approach, rather than grouping the detailed proposed investments and pressures plus income and savings for 2020/21 and across the medium term are grouped by theme within each Directorate. These are:
 - Demographic pressures
 - Investment to manage demand
 - Essential investment
 - Invest to save
 - Income generation

Climate Action Implications

11. The Council has declared a climate emergency and stated the commitment to deliver zero net carbon emissions by 2030. Considering and responding to the climate emergency must be embedded in how the Council operates and in all services the Council delivers. This report provides an overarching framework for our ambitions to reduce carbon emissions, improve transport networks and support healthy communities as part of our commitment to tackle the issue of climate change.

Financial and Legal Implications

12. This report is mostly concerned with finance and the implications are set out in the annexes of the report. The Council is required under the Localism Act 2011 to set a council tax requirement for the authority. This report provides information which will lead to the council tax requirement being agreed in February 2020.

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