

Division(s): N/A

**PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
18 December 2014**

**Service & Resource Planning  
2015/16 to 2017/18**

**Report by the Chief Finance Officer**

**Introduction**

1. This report is one in the series on the Service & Resource Planning process for 2015/16 to 2017/18, providing councillors with information on budget issues for 2015/16 and the medium term. This report presents the draft directorate level budget proposals for meeting emerging pressures which are set out for members to consider. It also provides an update on government consultations and sets out the review of charges.
2. The attached annexes will be considered by Cabinet on 16 December 2015, the outcomes of which will be made available to the Performance Scrutiny Committee. The Performance Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider the new revenue budget pressures and savings and, taking account of the service and community impact assessments, to make comment on the proposals. These comments will be taken into consideration by Cabinet in finalising its budget proposals and reflected, where agreed, in the report to Cabinet on 27 January 2015, when the Cabinet will propose the 2015/16 revenue budget, 2015/16 – 2017/18 Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme.
3. The following annexes are attached to this report:
  - Annex A: Service & resource Planning Report 2015/16 to 2017/18 to Cabinet 16 December 2015
  - Annex 1: New revenue budget pressures and savings 2015/16 – 2017/18
  - Annex 2: Review of charges 2015/16
  - Annex 3: Forecast earmarked reserves 2015/16 – 2017/18
  - Annex 4: Service & Community Impact Assessments (SCIAs) Overarching Assessment (SCIAs for individual proposals are available on the Council's website  
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/service-and-community-impact-assessments-scias-201415>)
4. This report does not include any proposals relating to the capital programme as these are dependent on the capital settlement. Updated property asset management and transport asset management plans will be considered together with proposals for the use of any unallocated capital resources by

the Performance Scrutiny Committee on 8 January 2015, prior to the Cabinet meeting on 27 January 2015.

### **Service and Resource Planning Process**

5. In September 2014, Cabinet agreed that given the uncertainties over future levels of government funding due to the forthcoming General Election that the medium term planning period would not be extended beyond 2017/18. It was also agreed that adjustments made to the existing Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) would be limited and only to reflect any changes to spending assumptions.
6. 2015/16 is the second year of the four-year directorate business strategies approved by Council in February 2014. Directorates have identified proposals to meet on-going expenditure pressures highlighted in the Financial Monitoring and Business Strategy Delivery reports to Cabinet and new expenditure pressures emerging during this planning round. Business Strategies will be refreshed where appropriate and presented to Cabinet in January 2015.

### **Equality and Inclusion Implications**

7. The Equality Act 2010 imposes a duty on local authorities that, when making decisions of a strategic nature, decision makers must exercise 'due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination... advance equality of opportunity... and foster good relations.'
8. An overarching service and community impact assessment (SCIA) of the broad impact of the new budget proposals is set out at Annex 4. This is supported by initial service-level assessments for all significant new proposals. These are available on the Council's website <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/service-and-community-impact-assessments-scias> ). Where proposals require further development, policy decisions or consultation to enable the budget decision to be implemented the impact assessment will be developed further and made available to decision makers.

### **Financial and Legal Implications**

9. This report is mostly concerned with finance and the implications are set out in the main body of the report.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

10. The Performance Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider the new revenue budget pressures and savings and, taking account of the service and community impact assessments, to make comment on the proposals. If any of the budget proposals are not supported, the committee is asked to suggest alternative proposals.

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