

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee Budget Recommendations

| Recommendation  | For Cabinet response / or Information request status   | Update on 2015/16 Recommendations (17 <sup>th</sup> October 2016)   |
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| That Cabinet should ensure sufficient flexibility in adult care budgets to support where possible the outcomes of co-production exercises.              | Agreed – this approach will be key to ensuring that the council continues to meet its statutory obligations to vulnerable adults in the most cost effective way.   | A co-production steering group chaired by the HealthWatch chair with stakeholder and officer representation continues to meet monthly and is a standing group which will work on new areas of co-design as they are identified by the steering group. The group works within the financial parameters identified within the MTFS for any transformation project/pathway   |
| That Cabinet should ensure a comprehensive financial risk register is maintained and updated, and considered at Cabinet on a quarterly basis.           | Agreed – the format and the appropriate level of detail will be agreed with the S151 Officer.  | As part of the 2016/17 MTFS Budget setting process we will be undertaking a comprehensive risk assessment against all the proposed savings. This will be detailed in the Budget Report to Cabinet in December 2016 and then Full Council in February 2017. Over the coming months we will be reviewing our Monthly Financial Report and will be introducing the identification, monitoring and mitigation of financial risks from 2017/18. This information will all be reported to Cabinet through quarterly budget reporting. |
| That as part of financial risk management, Cabinet should consider and confirm a strategy to ensure adequate levels of reserves across the MTFS period. | Agreed – the S151 Officer will report formally on the adequacy of the council’s reserves as part of the statutory budget setting report to Council on 22 <sup>nd</sup> February. This review will be extended to cover the period of the MTFS when it is reviewed from May 2016 onwards. | We review and update our Reserves position on an ongoing basis during the course of the financial year. We are currently undertaking a review as part of the preparation of the 5-year MTFS and Budget process for 2017/18-2021/22. We need to determine the adequacy of the Reserves position over the MTFS period to include in the Budget Report that will be presented to Cabinet in December 2016 and will   |

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|  |   | be reviewed and commented on by the Monitoring Officer.   |
| That Cabinet should confirm arrangements for reviews of savings plans in 2016/17 (para 5.1.i) and ensure that OSC is consulted on the outcome of those reviews and any proposals made.   | Agreed – Priority Boards will continue to exercise oversight of saving delivery plans and the outcomes from these arrangements will be set out in the regular quarterly budget monitoring reports that are considered by Cabinet and reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. | During the 2016/17 financial year we established Priority Budget Sub-Groups that support each of the six priorities to monitor the delivery of savings plans and ensure their deliverability or identify alternative savings proposals to close the gap. All these sub-groups are chaired by SLT members. We have recently established a Savings Steering group chaired by the Leader and includes the Cabinet Member for Finance, CEX and COO. This Group will take a pan-Council view all the savings proposals and their deliverability and ideas for new proposals both to close the gap in the short-term and those which are transformational and hence more long-term in nature. |
| That Cabinet should consider further sources of income for the Council, and opportunities to maximise income from all sources, report and update OSC and Scrutiny Panels on income maximisation as appropriate.  | Agreed – officers will be asked to consider the range of opportunities across the council and report their findings to the Cabinet. O&S Committee may additionally choose to incorporate reviews across individual areas into their work planning for 2016/17.                        | We are currently in the process of preparing the 5-year MTFS, which includes the identification of new savings proposals where existing ones have deemed to be undeliverable. We encourage these savings proposals to be a combination of income generating and cost reduction/efficiency proposals. For 2017/18 we will also be producing a Commercial Strategy which will identify and facilitate a holistic approach to income generating activities.  |
| That individual Scrutiny Panels should monitor budgets in the priority areas they oversee through 2016/17, and report formally to OSC after Q2; and that OSC should formally consider overall budget performance after Q2 and make recommendations as appropriate. | Agreed – this can again be incorporated into the O&S Committee and scrutiny panel work planning for 2016/17 and I welcome this more focussed approach.  | The individual Scrutiny Panels have taken this recommendation on board having including this as part of their work programmes which they are progressing.   |