

Committee: Healthier Communities & Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

11 January 2018

Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

16 January 2018

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

17 January 2018

Overview and Scrutiny Commission

25 January 2018

Wards: ALL

Subject: Business Plan Update 2018-2022 (Members are requested to bring the Business Plan Consultation Pack with them to these meetings)

Lead officer: Caroline Holland

Lead member: Councillor Mark Allison

Contact officer: Roger Kershaw

Recommendations:

1. That the Panel considers the proposed amendments to savings previously agreed set out in the Business Plan Consultation Pack;
 2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission also consider the Draft Business Plan 2018-22 report received by Cabinet at its meeting on 15 January 2018;
 3. That the Panel considers the draft capital programme 2018-22 and indicative programme for 2023-27 set out in Appendix 5 of the attached report on the Business Plan;
 4. That the Panel considers the draft savings/income proposals and associated equalities analyses set out in the Business Plan Consultation Pack;
 5. That the Panel considers the draft service plans set out in the Business Plan Consultation Pack ;
 6. That the Panel considers the contents of the consultation pack circulated;
 7. That the Panel notes that Cabinet agreed that Merton should participate in the London Business Rates Pilot Pool 2018/19 and signed up to the memorandum of understanding and agreed the draft resolutions as set out;
 8. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission considers the comments of the Panels on the Business Plan 2018-2022 and details provided in the consultation pack and provides a response to Cabinet when it meets on the 19 February 2018.
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1. Purpose of report and executive summary

- 1.1 This report requests Scrutiny Panels to consider the latest information in respect of the Business Plan and Budget 2018/19, including proposed amendments to savings previously agreed by Council, the draft capital programme 2018-22, the draft savings/income proposals and associated equalities analyses for 2018-22, and the draft service plans, and feedback comments to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission. At the meeting Cabinet also agreed to participate in the London Business Rates Pilot Pool 2018/19.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission will consider the comments of the Panels and provide a response on the Business Plan 2018-22 to Cabinet when it meets on the 19 February 2018.

2. Details - Revenue

- 2.1 The Cabinet of 11 December 2017 received a report on the business plan for 2018-22.
- 2.2 At the meeting Cabinet

RESOLVED:

1. That the draft savings/income proposals (Appendix 3) and associated draft equalities analyses (Appendix 7) put forward by officers be agreed and referred to the Overview and Scrutiny panels and Commission in January 2018 for consideration and comment.
2. That the latest amendments to the draft Capital Programme 2018-2022 which was considered by Cabinet on 16 October 2017 and by scrutiny in November 2017.(Appendix 5) be agreed.
3. That the proposed amendments to savings previously agreed (Appendix 2) be agreed.
4. That the Council Tax Base for 2018/19 set out in paragraph 2.6 and Appendix 1 be agreed.
5. That the draft service plans (Appendix 6) be agreed.
6. That the Council participates in the London Business Rates Pilot Pool and signs up to the Memorandum of Understanding and the draft resolutions set out in Appendix 9g be agreed.

3. **Alternative Options**

- 3.1 It is a requirement that the Council sets a balanced budget. The Cabinet report on 11 December 2017 sets out the progress made towards setting a balanced budget and options on how the budget gap could be closed. This identified the current budget position that needs to be addressed between now and the next report to Cabinet on 15 January 2018 and 19 February 2018, prior to Council on 28 February 2018, agreeing the Budget and Council Tax for 2018/19 and the Business Plan 2018-22, including the MTFs and Capital Programme 2018-22.

4. **Capital Programme 2018-22**

- 4.1 Details of the draft Capital Programme 2018-22 were agreed by Cabinet on 19 December 2017 in the attached report for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny panels and Commission.

5. **Consultation undertaken or proposed**

- 5.1 Further work will be undertaken as the process develops.
- 5.2 There is a meeting on 14 February 2018 with businesses as part of the statutory consultation with NNDR ratepayers. Any feedback from this meeting will be incorporated into the February Cabinet report.
- 5.3 As previously indicated, a savings proposals consultation pack was prepared and distributed to all councillors at the end of December 2017 with a request that it be brought to all Scrutiny and Cabinet meetings from 11 January 2018 onwards and to Budget Council. This should maintain the improvement for both councillors and officers which makes the Business Planning process more manageable for councillors and ensures that only one version of those documents is available so referring to page numbers at meetings is easier. It also considerably reduces printing costs and reduces the amount of printing that needs to take place immediately prior to Budget Council.
- 5.4 The consultation pack includes:
- Savings proposals
 - Equality impact assessments for proposals where appropriate
 - Service plans (these will also be printed in A3 to lay round at scrutiny meetings)
 - Budget summaries for each department

6. **Timetable**

- 6.1 The timetable for the Business Plan 2018-22 including the revenue budget 2018/19, the MTFs 2018-22 and the Capital Programme for 2018-22 was agreed by Cabinet on 18 September 2017.

7. **Financial, resource and property implications**

7.1 These are set out in the Cabinet report for 11 December 2017. (Appendix 1)

8. **Legal and statutory implications**

8.1 All relevant implications have been addressed in the Cabinet reports. Further work will be carried out as the budget and planning proceeds and will be included in the budget reports to Cabinet on the 15 January 2018, and 19 February 2018.

8.2 Detailed legal advice will be provided throughout the budget setting process further to any proposals identified and prior to any final decisions.

9. **Human Rights, Equalities and Community Cohesion Implications**

9.1 All relevant implications will be addressed in Cabinet reports on the business planning process.

9.2 A draft equalities assessment has been carried out with respect to the proposed budget savings and is included in the Business Plan Consultation Pack circulated to all Members.

10. **Crime and Disorder implications**

10.1 All relevant implications will be addressed in Cabinet reports on the business planning process.

11. **Risk Management and Health and Safety Implications**

11.1 All relevant implications will be addressed in Cabinet reports on the business planning process.

Appendices – the following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report

Appendix 1 - Cabinet report 11 December 2017: Draft Business Plan Update 2018-22 (NB: This excludes Savings, Service Plans and Equalities Assessments which are included in the Business Plan Consultation Pack)

Appendix 2 - Cabinet report 15 January 2018: Draft Business Plan 2018-22(TO FOLLOW WHEN PUBLISHED)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 The following documents have been relied on in drawing up this report but do not form part of the report:

Budget files held in the Corporate Services department.

2017/18 Budgetary Control and 2016/17 Final Accounts Working Papers in the
Corporate Services Department.
Budget Monitoring working papers
MTFS working papers

13. **REPORT AUTHOR**

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