

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 12 February 2020

Wards: All

Subject: **Scrutiny of the Business Plan 2020-2024: comments and recommendations from the overview and scrutiny panels**

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

Lead member: Councillor Peter Southgate, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny

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Recommendations:

- A That in determining its response to Cabinet on the business plan 2020-24, the Overview and Scrutiny Commission considers and takes into account the comments and recommendations made by the overview and scrutiny panels.
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the comments and recommendations of each of the overview and scrutiny panels following consideration of the business plan. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is recommended to take these into account when determining its response to Cabinet.

2. DETAILS

- 2.1 On 27 January 2020, Cabinet agreed to forward a draft business plan for consideration by scrutiny, including draft revenue savings proposals, draft service plans, draft equalities assessments and latest amendments to the capital programme.
- 2.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission has a constitutional duty to coordinate the scrutiny responses on the business plan and budget formulation. The outcome of scrutiny by the panels (described in section 3 below) is presented to Commission for this purpose.
- 2.3 The substantive report on the Business Plan 2020-2024 is contained elsewhere on this agenda for the Commission's consideration.

3. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS

- 3.1 Appendix 1 contains comments and recommendations made by the scrutiny panels.
- 3.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is recommended to consider the comments and recommendations put forward by the scrutiny panels when determining its overall scrutiny response to Cabinet on the Business Plan 2020-24.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Constitution requires the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to consider the comments and recommendations put forward by the overview and scrutiny panels and to agree a joint overview and scrutiny response. Cabinet is then required under the terms of the Constitution to receive, consider and respond to references from overview and scrutiny.

5. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 5.1 The Constitution contains the requirements for consulting scrutiny on the budget and business plan. There is an initial phase of scrutiny in November each year, with the second round in January/February representing the formal consultation of scrutiny on the proposed Business Plan, Budget and Capital Programme.

6. TIMETABLE

- 6.1 Round one of scrutiny of the 2020-24 Business Plan was undertaken as follows:-

- Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 30 October 2019
- Healthier Communities & Older People Scrutiny Panel: 5 November 2019
- Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 6 November 2019
- Overview and Scrutiny Commission: 13 November 2019

- 6.2 Round two of scrutiny of the Business Plan was undertaken as follows:-

- Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 6 February 2020
- Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 10 February 2020
- Healthier Communities & Older People Scrutiny Panel: 11 February 2020
- Overview and Scrutiny Commission: 12 February 2020

- 6.4 The responses from round two will be presented to Cabinet on 24 February 2020. A meeting of full Council will then take place on 4 March 2020.

7. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 These are detailed in the substantive reports elsewhere on this agenda and in the reports considered by Cabinet in October and January.

8. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The process for developing the budget and business plan is set out in Part 4C of the Council's Constitution. The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and panels with regard to the development of the budget and business plan is set out in Part 4E of the Constitution.

- 8.2 The legal and statutory implications relating to the Business Plan are contained in the reports elsewhere on this agenda.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None directly relating to this report.

10. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engagement.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 These implications are detailed in the reports elsewhere on this agenda.

12. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

Appendix 1: comments and recommendations made by the scrutiny panels in relation to the Business Plan 2020-24.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 Minutes of the meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Panels in February 2020.

References/Comments from Scrutiny Panels to the Overview & Scrutiny Commission 12 February 2020

Scrutiny of the Business Plan 2020-2024

Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel: 6 February 2020

The Panel discussed each of the new savings proposals and asked questions of clarification about the growth proposals.

The Panel further discussed and commented on the report and RESOLVED (six votes for, none against and one abstention) to make the following reference to Cabinet;

“That Cabinet note the excellent work of the Merton Finance Team in managing the pension fund and the resulting benefits to the people of Merton of over £2.4 million per year for the foreseeable future”.

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel: 10 February 2020

The Panel discussed the report and the savings and growth item in relation to its remit. No reference was made to Cabinet.

Healthier Communities and Older People O&S Panel: 11 February 2020

The Panel discussed the report and the savings and growth item in relation to its remit. No reference was made to Cabinet.