

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 7 December 2020

Wards: All

Subject: Reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission – Business Plan 2021-25

Lead officer: Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services

Lead member: Cllr Peter Southgate, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Contact officer: Rosie Mckeever, Scrutiny Officer, 0208 545 4035

Recommendations:

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission recommends that Cabinet take into account its reference set out in paragraphs 2.8 to 2.13 below when making decisions on the Business Plan 2021-25.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. At its meeting on 11 November 2020 the Overview and Scrutiny Commission received a draft Business Plan report which they discussed and commented on.
- 1.2. The Panel agreed to make a reference to Cabinet, as set out in paragraphs 2.8 to 2.13 below.

2 DETAILS

2.1. Scrutiny process

- 2.2. The Panel received a report setting out the proposed savings and the latest available information on the Business Plan and Budget 2021/22.
- 2.3. The Director of Corporate Services provided a verbal update on the latest budget position and provided background information to form the basis of discussion.
- 2.4. Panel Members received additional information in response to their questions from both the Director of Corporate Services and the Cabinet Member for Finance.
- 2.5. Full details of points made in the discussion will be published in the minutes of the meeting.

2.6. Scrutiny response

- 2.7. Panel RESOLVED (eight votes for, none against) to make the following reference to Cabinet:
- 2.8. Commission Members welcome the opportunity to scrutinise the draft budget, and appreciate the difficulties officers have faced in compiling it under the exceptional stress of the pandemic.
- 2.9. Members endorse the split between Covid and non-Covid elements of the budget deficit, with savings limited to the non-Covid elements.

- 2.10. Because of the delay to the Spending Review, Cabinet is asked to defer decisions on the non-Covid savings until the funding position is clearer.
- 2.11. In the absence of equalities impact assessments, members ask Cabinet to defer decisions on the following savings:
- CYP Rationalisation of children’s centres
 - CH100 Review of in-house day-care provision
 - CH101 Review of in-house LD residential provision
 - CH102 Dementia Hub re-commissioning
- 2.12. The size of the Covid gap potentially overwhelms the council’s General Fund, and members endorse the LGA’s position below:
- 2.13. “It is vital that the government addresses in full the financial challenges facing councils as a result of Covid-19, including all lost income and local tax losses”.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. None – Cabinet is required under the council’s constitution to receive, consider and respond to references from overview and scrutiny.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. Invitations to provide submissions to the Panel were sent to a wide range of residents’ associations and local community organisations.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. None for the purpose of this report.

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. Cabinet is required under the council’s constitution to receive, consider and respond to references from overview and scrutiny. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires Cabinet to respond to reports and recommendations made by scrutiny committees within two months of written notice being given.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are no human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications as a result of this report.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. There are no crime and disorder implications as a result of this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. There are no risk management and health and safety implications as a result of this report.

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

- None

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

This page is intentionally left blank