

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 29 January 2015

Wards: All

Subject: **Scrutiny of the Business Plan 2015-2019: 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 2015-19, the Overview and Scrutiny Commission considers and takes into account the comments and recommendations made by 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 20 October 2014, Cabinet received a report on the business plan for 2015-19. This included details of savings targets and the draft capital programme 2015-19. These items have been reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Panels and to the Commission so that comments and recommendations from scrutiny can be conveyed to Cabinet at its meeting on 8 December 2014.
- 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 2015-2019 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 2015-19.

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 2015-19 Business Plan was undertaken as follows:-

- Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 4 November 2014
- Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 11 November 2014
- Healthier Communities & Older People Scrutiny Panel: 12 November
- Overview and Scrutiny Commission: 25 November 2014

- 6.2 Comments and recommendations from round one were reported to Cabinet on 8 December 2014.

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

- Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 8 January 2015
- Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 13 January 2015
- Healthier Communities & Older People Scrutiny Panel: 14 January 2015
- Overview and Scrutiny Commission: 29 January 2015

- 6.4 The responses from round two will be presented to Cabinet on 16 February 2015. A meeting of full Council will then take place on 4 March 2015.

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 on 20 October 2014.

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 2015-19.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 13.1 Minutes of the meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Panels in January 2015

References/Comments from Scrutiny Panels to the Overview & Scrutiny Commission 29 January 2015

Scrutiny of the Business Plan 2015-2019

Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel: 8 January 2015

CH42 housing options - Panel agreed to forward a recommendation that this proposal be kept under review to ensure that the council could be confident that this was a viable saving.

ER16 Waste Services – Joint Procurement - Take out ‘harmonizing’ and replace with ‘collaboration’ and clarify reference to any impact of saving on parks and waste services.

ER22/23 Waste Services – Dog Waste options 1 and 2 - The Panel support option 1 (ER22) and ask that Cabinet explore the issues of overflowing bins and bring back benchmarking data on the effectiveness of this approach.

ER30 Building and Development Control (Planning Enforcement) - That the shared service proposals be developed further to inform the decision to be taken in 2016/17 to make this change and the proposed associated savings.

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel: 13 January 2015

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel noted with concern the implications of the proposed savings within the Children, Schools and Families Department, in particular with regard to the Youth Service, but reluctantly accepted them in the light of the overall budget position.

Healthier Communities and Older People O&S Panel: 14 January 2015

The Panel would like the Cabinet to ask officers to look again at the equality impact assessment of all the savings taking into consideration those all those who will be affected and particularly looking at the knock on effects on the voluntary sector.

There was some concern about the process for considering the feedback on the consultation on changes to adult social care. At the meeting it was confirmed that scrutiny will now have the opportunity to consider the outcomes before it goes to Cabinet.

The Panel have concerns that the current savings proposals are based upon an inflation rate of 1.5% when it currently stands at 0.5%. This differential could have a huge impact on the level of savings that need to be made