

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 12 December 2016

Wards: All

Subject: Reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission – pre decision scrutiny of the Business Plan 2017-21

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

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

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Recommendations:

- A. That Cabinet, in taking decisions relating to the Business Plan 2017-21, takes into account the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission (set out in paragraph 2.3 below) and the discussion at the financial monitoring task group's meeting on 10 November 2016 (set out in Appendix 1).
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To inform Cabinet of the recommendations and comments resulting from pre decision scrutiny of the Business Plan 2017-21 by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Overview and Scrutiny Panels at their meetings in November 2016.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission and each of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels have examined the budget and business plan proposals relating to the service areas within their remit. There were no references from the Scrutiny Panels to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission relating to round one of the budget scrutiny process this year.
- 2.2. The Commission received a reference from its financial monitoring task group arising from its discussion of a report on progress with previous years' savings as well as its scrutiny of the six months financial monitoring report at its meeting on 10 November 2016.
- 2.3. The Commission RESOLVED to make a reference to Cabinet asking Cabinet to be mindful of the financial monitoring task group's discussion when reviewing the draft Business Plan 2017-21, in particular:
1. The potential impact of the predicted overspend in 2016/17 service budgets of almost £10m;
 2. The statement given to the task group by the Director of Community and Housing in response to a question on whether it would be possible to achieve all of the previously agreed savings. The Director said that it was his professional advice that given the scale of the predicted overspend in 2016/17 he does not believe that it will be possible to retrieve the

overspend and achieve all of the previously agreed savings as well as meeting the council's statutory duties in relation to adult social care;

3. Upcoming negotiations between the council and Merton Clinical Commissioning Group about the level of Better Care Funding for 2017/18.

2.4. An extract from the draft minutes of the financial monitoring task group's meeting is set out in Appendix 1.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1. Cabinet is required under the terms of the constitution to receive, consider and respond to recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED.

4.1. The Constitution outlines the requirements for consulting scrutiny on the budget.

5 TIMETABLE

5.1. Round one of scrutiny of the 2017-21 Business Plan was undertaken as follows:-

- Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 9 November 2016
- Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 1 November 2016
- Healthier Communities & Older People Scrutiny Panel: 8 November 2016
- Overview and Scrutiny Commission: 15 November 2016

5.2. Comments and recommendations from round one will be reported to Cabinet on 12 December 2016.

5.3. Round two of scrutiny of the Business Plan is planned as follows:-

- Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 12 January 2017
- Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 11 January 2017
- Healthier Communities & Older People Scrutiny Panel: 10 January 2017
- Overview and Scrutiny Commission: 26 January 2017

5.4. The responses from round two will be presented to Cabinet on 13 February 2017. A meeting of full Council will then take place on 1 March 2017.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. These are detailed in the substantive reports elsewhere on this agenda.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. 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.

7.2. The legal and statutory implications relating to the budget and business plan are contained in the reports elsewhere on this agenda.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. 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.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. These were examined by the Commission and were taken into account in making their recommendations to Cabinet.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

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

- Appendix 1 – extract from draft minutes of the financial monitoring task group meeting, 10 November 2016

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None

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