



REPORT OF CABINET

THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Cabinet noted that over the course of the previous two years, the Council had agreed a package of savings to mitigate the impact of very significant cuts in central government funding to local authorities. Government plans for radical changes to a number of areas had been announced over this period, with more detail gradually emerging. These changes would fundamentally alter the way in which local authorities were funded, the details of which had been reported to Cabinet previously.

Cabinet noted the update on recent developments since a similar report was considered in November 2012. Updates on the following areas were detailed in the report before Cabinet:

- Localisation of business rates
- Localisation of Council Tax support
- School Funding & Pupil Referral Units
- Capital funding.

Cabinet also considered the position in the current financial year, and other relevant issues, as these need to be taken into account in developing the detailed budget for 2013/14.

Reasons for the decision:

It was essential that the Council's financial strategy took due account of Government plans, and any other material factors where these were likely to have an impact on the Council's financial position. The report provided an update to Cabinet on issues relevant to the budget setting process.

Other options considered:

None. The Constitution required this as a step towards setting the Council's budget.

Cabinet RECOMMENDS to Council that it approves the revenue and capital strategy statement, as set out in Appendix A to this report.