



CABINET

17 AUGUST 2011

REPORT

Subject Heading:

The Council's Financial Strategy

Cabinet Member:

Cllr Michael White

CMT Lead:

Ian Burns
Acting Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author and contact details:

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Policy context:

Comments of Overview and Scrutiny
Committees on proposed budget cuts
affecting all areas of Council services.

Financial summary:

The Council is required to save in the
region of £40 million in the next four years
commencing in 2011/12

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this a Strategic Decision?

No

When should this matter be reviewed?

N/A

Reviewing OSC:

All

SUMMARY

All the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees met in joint session on 28 July to be presented the report agreed by Cabinet and the draft minute of that meeting setting out budget savings in the light of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review and the subsequent Local Government Financial Settlement. This report contains summaries of the issues raised by each Committee as set out in the committees' draft minutes and asks Cabinet to note these matters.

RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet note the matters raised in the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees shown in the appendix.

REPORT DETAIL

- 1.1 At its meeting in February 2011, Cabinet approved a budget that covered the Council's initial response to the Coalition Government's Emergency Budget and the Policy Implications of the Coalition Agreement. This budget also reflected the subsequent outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review, and the announcement of the Local Government Financial Settlement that followed it. Whilst the budget ensured that the Council had addressed a significant element of the forecast budget gap over the period to 2014, Cabinet agreed to a further report in the Summer that would address the remainder of the gap.
- 1.2 This report was presented to Cabinet on 13 July 2011. It was agreed that this report would be presented to a special meeting of all Overview and Scrutiny Committees. This meeting was held on 28 July 2011 and the minutes of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee's consideration of these matters are contained in the appendix to this report. It should be noted that specific minutes for the Crime and Disorder Committee and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are not included as these Committees did not raise any issues in relation to the proposed savings.
- 1.2 As discussed at the meeting of Cabinet on 13 July, Cabinet is now requested to note the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees as part of its decision making process on these matters.

Financial Implications and risks:

None for this report. Full financial implications and risks of the proposed savings are given in the Cabinet report dated 14 July 2010.

Legal Implications and risks:

None for this report. Full legal implications and risks of the proposed savings are given in the Cabinet report dated 14 July 2010.

Human Resources Implications and risks:

None for this report. Full human resources implications and risks of the proposed savings are given in the Cabinet report dated 14 July 2010.

Equalities and Social Inclusion Implications and risks

None for this report. Full equalities implications and risks of the proposed savings are given in the Cabinet report dated 14 July 2010.

Reasons for the decision:

This report accords with the agreement by Cabinet at its meeting on 14 July 2010 that details of the proposed budget savings be presented for consideration at a specially held meeting of all Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Alternative options considered:

As stated above, the convening of the meeting of all Overview and Scrutiny Committees accords with a previous Cabinet decision. As such, no alternative options were considered.

Appendices and Background Papers

Appendix: draft Minutes of the joint meeting of all Overview and Scrutiny Committees, held 28 July 2011.

There are no background papers.