

CABINET, 16 FEBRUARY 2022, AGENDA ITEM 6 – 2022/23 BUDGET AND 2022-2026 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY - COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

At its meeting on 15 February 2022, the Overview and Scrutiny Board agreed the following comments for consideration by Cabinet:

- All Members of the Board appreciate the seriousness of the current budget situation and the impact on the financial position of the Council of issues such as austerity, Covid-19 and funding uncertainties.
- The Board has some concerns over the impact of planned staff reductions on Council services, as well as on staff morale.
- The Board has noted the challenges around plans to increase the level of the Council's reserves.
- Concern has been raised by Board Members about the uncertain impact of Central Government's Social Care Plan on Social Care services in Havering. It is accepted that this may be challenging, once the full impact of Central Government proposals are known.
- The Board recommends that Cabinet asks the Board to scrutinise the impact of budget savings on Council services going forward.