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**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**23 JANUARY 2017**

**FINANCIAL PLANNING 2017 - 2020**

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**PART I - NOT DELEGATED**

**7. FINANCIAL PLANNING 2017-2020**

(DoF)

1. **Summary**

1.1 This report is an introduction to the four agenda items that follow.

2. **Details**

 ***Background***

2.1 At its meeting on 6 October 2016 (Minute PR55/16 refers) this Committee agreed the strategic, service and financial planning process for 2017-2020. This complies with the Council’s *Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules* and means that the Council can demonstrate clear links between its Strategic Plan, its Service Plans and the allocation of resources to achieve the outputs and outcomes contained in them.

2.2 The Policy and Resources Committee considered the draft strategic plan in December 2016. The final strategic plan will be presented to this Committee at its meeting on 20 March 2017 for consideration and recommendation to Council.

2.3 Finalised service plans will be presented to their relevant service committee in the March 2017 cycle of meetings.

2.4 **Following on from this item are 4 reports:-**

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| --- | --- |
| **Agenda** **Item No.** | **Title** |
| 8 | Financial Planning – Revenue Services |
| 9 | Financial Planning – Capital Investment Programme |
| 10 | Financial Planning – Treasury Management |
| 11 | Financial Planning – Recommendations |

 ***Financial Planning – Revenue Services***

2.5 The Council’s expenditure on ***revenue activities*** (the day to day costs of its services) are funded from a combination of council tax, retained business rates, government grant and fees & charges and rents.

2.6 The purpose of this report is to allow the Policy and Resources Committee to recommend to the Council the medium term revenue budget.

 ***Financial Planning – Capital Investment Programme***

2.7 The Council’s expenditure on its capital programme (used to create assets benefitting the community over the longer term) is funded from a combination of capital receipts, grants and reserves.

2.8 The purpose of this report is to allow the Policy and Resources Committee to recommend to the Council its capital investment programme.

 ***Financial Planning – Treasury Management***

2.9 This report presents to members the Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18 – 2019/20.

 ***Financial Planning – Recommendations***

2.10 This report enables the Policy and Resources Committee to make its recommendations on the Council’s Revenue and Capital budgets and Treasury Management Strategy for the period 2017-2020 (medium term) to the Council on 21 February 2017.

2.11 In the recent past the Committee has resolved to delay final decisions until the Council meeting. The recommendations at Item 11 provide a framework by which recommendations can be formulated whichever course of action is taken.

2.12 Under the Council’s Constitution, only Council can approve or adopt the budget (Article 4). The Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules (Part 4 Rules of Procedure) set out the process for developing the budget.

3. **Options/Reasons for Recommendation**

3.1 The recommendation below is to note this report.

4. **Policy/Budget Reference and Implications**

4.1 The recommendations in this report contribute to the process whereby the Council will approve and adopt its strategic, service and financial plans under Article 4 of the Council’s Constitution.

5. **Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website Implications**

5.1 Included in the reports that follow where appropriate.

6. **Financial Implications**

6.1 Members are welcome to raise questions on the budget prior to any discussion at the meeting. Indeed, it would be helpful if questions could be notified in advance to ensure that comprehensive responses are available. Any queries should be addressed in the first instance to the Finance Services - accountancy.practice@threerivers.gov.uk who will ensure an answer is provided by the responsible budget holder. Confidential advice can be obtained prior to the meeting in accordance with the “Conventions between Political Groups and Officers”.

7. **Legal Implications**

7.1 The Council is required to set its budget before 11 March 2017, although it is intended that it should do this on 21 February 2017.

7.2 The Localism Act 2011 abolished capping in England and instead introduced a power for local electorates to approve or veto excessive council tax rises. Any authority setting a council tax increase which exceeds principles endorsed by the House of Commons (i.e. if it is “excessive”) will be required to hold a council tax referendum. The result of a council tax referendum will be binding.

7.3 The Council’s Chief Finance Officer (Director of Finance) has a statutory duty to report to the Council if it is likely to incur expenditure that is unlawful or likely to exceed its resources. Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 places a duty on the Chief Finance Officer to report on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the financial reserves.

8. **Equal Opportunities Implications**

8.1 All budget reduction proposals have had an equality relevance test undertaken and where deemed necessary a full impact assessment has been undertaken. The results are published on our website at –

http://www.threerivers.gov.uk/Default.aspx/Web/EqualityImpactAssessments

9. **Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications**

9.1 There are no risks to the Council in agreeing the recommendation in this report.

10. **Recommendation**

* 1. That this report be noted.

 Report prepared by:

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 **Background Papers**

 None