

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

LOCAL AREA COUNCIL - CASTLE MORPETH

8 JANUARY 2018

CORPORATE PLAN, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN, AND THE BUDGET 2018-19

Report of: Daljit Lally, Chief Executive

Cabinet Member: Nick Oliver, Cabinet Secretary and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services

Purpose of report

To advise the Local Area Councils as to the content of the draft Corporate Plan and the proposed budget strategy for the Medium Term Financial Plan, and its implication for setting the Council's budget for 2018-19.

Recommendations

The Local Area Council is asked to consider and comment on the emerging Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan, and the approach being adopted to set the Council Budget for 2018-19.

Key Issues

The Corporate Plan is the Council's main strategic planning document, providing a framework for the delivery of all services. It is a clear statement of the Council's vision, strategic aims and policy priorities for the next four years.

The Medium Term Financial Plan sets out the Council's strategy to financial management over the next four years. Having taken account of the Local Government Finance Settlement from Government, it informs the process to set the Council's annual budget.

This report will be supplemented at each of the Local Area Council meetings with a presentation which will detail the proposed content of both the Corporate Plan and the Medium Term Financial Plan, and the subsequent implications for setting the Budget for 2018-19.

BACKGROUND

Corporate Plan

1. The Corporate Plan is the Council's main strategic planning document, providing a framework for the delivery of all services. It is a clear statement of the Council's vision, strategic aims and policy priorities for the next four years. As such, it focuses on strategic outcomes.
2. It informs the Medium Term Financial Plan and as such is intended to help in considering competing pressures, understand the links between them and to establish a shared understanding amongst Members and officers of the priorities going forward. Its aim, therefore, is to prioritise those areas of activity on which the Council will focus its attentions over the next four years. This is obviously particularly challenging within the current budgetary constraints.
3. It also informs the subsequent preparation of Service Statements which set out a detailed delivery framework for each Council Service, having taken account of the Medium Term Financial Plan. It is against these that the Council's performance will be measured.
4. The attached document represents a final draft. The final version will be presented to full Council in February having taken account of any comments raised by the Local Area Councils and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget 2018-19

5. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) sets out the Council's strategy to financial management over the next four years. Having taking account of the Local Government Finance Settlement from Government, it informs the process to set the Council's annual budget.
6. On this basis, it outlines the national context for local government finance and the implications of the local government settlement announced in December each year. It then critiques any anticipated change in demand for local government services and any significant implications associated with the Council's expenditure. This will include confirmation as to the scale of any required budget efficiencies and the approach by which these will be achieved. It also details the scale and scope of the Council's capital programme and sets out the Council's Treasury Management Strategy. This then allows the Council Tax rates to be set.
7. More information on the emerging MTFP and the implications for the Budget 2018-19 will be presented at the LAC meeting.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy	The Corporate Plan will steer the strategic policy direction of the Council for the term of the current Administration
Finance and value for money	The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) will steer the management of the Council's finances for the term of the current Administration.
Legal	n/a
Procurement	n/a
Human Resources	The Council remains under significant financial pressure, which will have a detrimental impact on staffing levels across the Council. The Council will continue to try and mitigate this impact by the management of vacancies and voluntary redundancy wherever possible.
Property	The MTFP sets out the Council's capital programme, a significant element of which will relate to maximising the efficiency of the Council's property base.
Equalities	(Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No X N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Equality Impact Assessments will be prepared for significant budget proposals and considered by full Council in finalising the MTFP and the Budget 2018-19
Risk Assessment	The risks associated with the budget proposals are regarded as acceptable but these risks will continue to be reviewed up to and including implementation of the detailed proposals.
Crime & Disorder	The Corporate Plan and MTFP have given careful consideration to Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and the duty it imposes.
Customer Consideration	Both the Corporate Strategy and the MTFP has been considered by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and also its Local Area Councils. Budget efficiency decisions that have an impact on the delivery of services to residents will be subject to consultation of the relevant users/customers.
Carbon reduction	n/a
Wards	ALL

Background papers:

Draft Corporate Plan as attached

Report sign off

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	Name
Finance Officer	Alison Elsdon
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Liam Henry
Human Resources	Kelly Angus
Procurement	Teresa Palmer
I.T.	Neil Arnold
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
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