

CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OSC

REPORT TO CABINET

12 DECEMBER 2023

OSC - Budget 2024-25 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024-2028

Councillor Glen Sanderson, Leader of the Council presented the report to the Committee on 27 November 2023. Jan Willis, Executive Director of Transformation and Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Alison Elsdon, Director of Finance and Procurement (Deputy S151 Officer) were also in attendance to assist with any queries from members.

He reported that this was not the final version of the budget proposals as Government funding was yet to be confirmed.

The BEST programme continued to ensure the Authority was working to a high level and highlighted where efficiencies could be made. However, he hoped that there would not be a need for any compulsory redundancies unless they were absolutely essential.

The following comments were made in response to members' questions:-

- It was confirmed that Town & Parish Councils were going to be contacted regarding enhanced local services, however it had not been confirmed when this would take place.
- The report was scheduled to return to the Corporate Services & Economic Growth OSC meeting on 29th January 2024 when members of all the overview and scrutiny committees would be invited to attend and comment. The Government settlement should have been confirmed by this date meaning the figures would be more accurate.
- All members would have the opportunity to give their priorities on the budget through a questionnaire.
- It was acknowledged that the figures in the report currently were assumptions until the funding was confirmed. The funding would be received on several dates throughout December and January but there should be clarity on the funding received by the end of January 2024.
- Work on the Capital programme was ongoing. It was acknowledged that the Authority had a large Capital Programme. Continuous additions to the programme could lead to revenue pressures and there was a concern that the programme may not be sustainable long term and therefore conversations would be had to discuss how much can be continued. However, an

assurance was made that if the figures stacked up on projects the Council would deliver them.

- An assurance was given that the recruitment and retention concerns as well as staffing efficiencies would be covered by the BEST report due to come to committee on 29th January 2024.

The Committee resolved to note the report and that Cabinet be advised of the comments as set out above.

COUNCILLOR DAVID BAWN

CHAIRMAN