



**REPORT of
INTERIM SECTION 151 OFFICER**

**to
COUNCIL
13 FEBRUARY 2020**

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020 / 21 TO 2023 / 24

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020 / 21 to 2023 / 24 for approval by the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020 / 21 to 2023 / 24 at **APPENDIX 1** be approved.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) at **APPENDIX 1** sets out how the Council will manage its revenue finances up to 2023/24 and covers a five-year capital programme. The MTFS supports the delivery of the Council's objectives and priorities as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 3.2 The medium-term financial planning process is an established part of the budget setting process. It sets out a forecast of the cost of continuing provision of existing levels of service and the resources that are likely to be available to the Council over the period. It identifies any shortfalls and sets out how this will be managed. This document is reviewed at least annually; regular review and update is essential to ensure the MTFS takes full account of any changes in the Council's aspirations, strategic and service delivery priorities, changes in government legislation, financial regulation and funding streams and the general socio / economic environment that the Council operates in.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Medium term financial planning is an important component of the Council's strategic planning framework. No more so than in the current uncertain economic climate due to global events and the as yet unknown implications of Brexit with unprecedented financial pressures and constraints in the public sector. Key financial decisions need to be set in the context of a plan that looks beyond the next financial year. Forward planning offers the opportunity to link service and financial planning, as decisions taken on an annual basis are limited in what they can achieve.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 5.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) provides the foundation against which the Council will strive to deliver the best possible value for money in the provision of efficient and cost-effective services across the District. Through the effective development and delivery of the Council's financial and other resource strategies it seeks to build upon past achievements as well as provide clear direction to the attainment of the Council's longer-term goals.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None arising directly from this report.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None arising directly from this report.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – The risks to the Council in respect of the available forecast resource envelope over the medium term are discussed in **APPENDIX 1**.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – **APPENDIX 1** sets out the medium term financial forecast of available resources to forecast expenditure and identifies and discusses the resource gap and the various actions that can be taken to ensure a balanced budget for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None arising directly from this report.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None arising directly from this report.

Background Papers: None.

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